

ICAO Operational Data Link Working Group – Joint Project Team 08 (OPDLWG – JPT/08)



High Level Status Report presented to ISPACG FIT



Federal Aviation
Administration

Meeting Information

- The eighth meeting of the Operational Data Link Working Group of the Communications Panel Joint Project Teams (CP-OPDLWG-JPT/08) was held at the Conference Room AIRBUS at EUROCONTROL, Brussels, Belgium, from 11 to 15 November 2024.
- Mr. Kwek Chin Lin, Vice Chair of the CP-OPDLWG, facilitated the discussions with the support of Project Team Leaders and the Secretary. Ms. Crystal Guseul Kim, Technical Officer of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) Section, Air Navigation Bureau, was the Secretary of the meeting.
- The meeting was attended by 24 members and advisors from 7 States and 7 international organizations. Regrets were received from Members nominated by Australia, Brazil, China, Japan, IATA, ICCAIA and IFALPA.



GOLD Manual 2nd Edition

- The meeting was presented with numerous discussion papers which proposed further amendments to the GOLD Manual (as part of the 2nd Edition and/or future editions).
- The objective of the discussion was to finalize the draft GOLD 2nd Edition, which is consistent with industry documents as well as the draft proposals for amendment to Annexes and PANS, which would go through the applicable process of ICAO. The meeting agreed with the draft GOLD Edition 2 version 9.8.
- The GOLD Manual 2nd Edition should be submitted for consideration by the ANC in mid-February 2025



PBCS Project Team

- The meeting was provided with an update on the progress concerning Edition 3 of the PBCS Manual, the latest version of the document, and the scope of remaining work for the subgroups.
- OPDLWG was provided with the comment matrix (68 comments open out of 313 comments). There is a continuous delay of work, leading to constant changes to the expected timelines in the job card and highlighted the lack of resources (time and expertise) as an increasing threat to the finalization of the work as planned.
- The meeting recognized the challenges of the PBCS PT, including the change of the PT lead in recent years. The meeting recalled the work programme items listed in the job card and agreed that the work of the PBCS PT is prioritized to tackle the listed items and the associated open comments. Once the listed items are all addressed, the interpanel-coordination should commence as soon as possible.



Definition of “OUTAGE”

- The meeting discussed the lack of a definition for the term “outage” in ICAO and industry documents, and discussed its need, the proposed definition, and the way forward. It was noted that the term “outage” is widely used in ICAO documents related to data links and directly linked to RCP/RSP availability in definition and measurements.
- The meeting considered the factors influencing the definition of an “outage” within an ICAO context. The meeting also discussed whether an 'outage' should be defined purely in terms of system functionality or the impact or result of a system failure as well. The meeting noted that the use of the word 'outage' in all ICAO documents is governed by dictionary definition, while the use of the term in one of an industry document specific to aeronautical mobile satellite (route) services (AMS(R)S) is governed by the specific definition “a loss of service to a multiplicity of aircraft within a specific airspace”. It was, however, noted that this definition does not work in the context of the PBCS-related provisions and guidance.
- The meeting considered the benefit of having a definition of an “outage”, which has a particular technical meaning in the context of PBCS. However, recognizing the need to review the implications of this new definition in all instances where the term “outage” is used in the PBCS manual, the meeting requested the PBCS PT to investigate these implications further and propose a definition that will govern the use of the term “outage” in the PBCS manual.



Network Outage Reporting and Impact Assessment (NORIA) Handbook

- The meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the consultation on potential ways to leverage the Network Outage Reporting and Impact Assessment (NORIA) Handbook for global applicability. The consultation took place at the EUROCONTROL Joint Datalink Performance Monitoring and Support Groups (DPMG/DSG) Meeting, held on 16 October 2024.
- The meeting noted that the DPMP/DSG welcomed the idea of extending the applicability of the NORIA Handbook to a global level and recognized the opportunity to expand its applicability to continental Europe. The meeting solicited inputs from members from other States/regions in attendance and requested the rest of the members provide feedback, especially in consultation with FIT-Asia, ISPACG and IPACG, as soon as possible to the PBCS PT, which then can accelerate the work to improve guidance on PBCS monitoring (Job Card CP-OPDLWG 002.03 Work Programme Element No. 1674).



SATVOICE Update

- OPDLWG was provided with a list of comments received from the CP-DCIWG (Communication Panel - Data Communications Infrastructure Working Group) and the SATVOICE PT's proposed resolution of these comments. The meeting was also provided with the latest draft of the SVOM (Sat Voice Operation Manual), which had been updated to reflect the DCIWG's feedback that was editorial in nature.
- With respect to the comments related to the use of SATVOICE as a sole LRCS (Long-Range Communication System), the OPDLWG noted that the guidance on the use of SATVOICE as a sole LRCS requires additional time to reach necessary maturity and is dependent on the ongoing activities external to ICAO. Accordingly, the OPDLWG reaffirmed that, as initially planned and reflected in the job card, this guidance would be included in the 2nd Edition of the SVOM, the OPDLWG's target delivery of which is yet to be determined.
- The meeting agreed that the draft SVOM be used for further inter-panel coordination with other operational groups, such as FLTOPSP (Flight Operations Panel) and ATMOPSP (Air Traffic Management Operations Panel), while the discussion with DCIWG on these open comments continues.



Future Meetings

Year	Dates	Venue	Type of Meeting
2025 (Confirmed)	5-9 May	Montréal	OPDLWG-JPT/09 or PBCS PT
	17-21 November	Montréal	OPDLWG-JPT/10
2026 (Tentative)	11 to 15 May	Montréal	OPDLWG/12
	2 to 6 November	Montréal	OPDLWG-JPT/11 and/or joint meeting with other expert group (s)
2027 (Tentative)	10 to 14 May	Montréal	OPDLWG-JPT/12 and/or joint meeting with other expert group(s)
	1 to 5 November	Montréal	OPDLWG-JPT/13 and/or joint meeting with other expert group(s)
2028 (Tentative)	8 to 12 May	Montréal	OPDLWG-JPT/14 and/or joint meeting with other expert group(s)
	6 to 10 November	Montréal	OPDLWG-JPT/15 and/or joint meeting with other expert group(s)



Farewell to Ms. Shelley Bailey, Chair of the CP-OPDLWG and Co-Chair of the Communications Panel

- Ms. Shelley Bailey, the outgoing Chair, served for over 10 years. Ms. Bailey has been an inspiring figure, guiding the group through numerous challenges and milestones. Her commitment to fostering collaboration and building consensus among members has left an indelible mark on the group's achievements and will continue to inspire future endeavours of the group.

