

INTERNET BASED APPROACH FOR MANAGEMENT OF COSPAS-SARSAT BEACON REGISTRATION DATABASE

1. ACTION REQUIRED

The Task Group is requested to consider following:

- use of Internet for automatic retrieval of beacon registration information from concerned administrations; and
- encourage RCCs / SAR agencies to collect necessary supporting data on Cospas-Sarsat SAR incidents on best efforts basis and make them available on Internet for the benefit of others.

2. BACKGROUND

This paper deals with 406 MHz alerts only. False alarming is a major problem in the Cospas-Sarsat system and needs to be handled to optimize efforts of RCCs and SAR agencies. Even with the best efforts by participants, the false alarm rate has not reduced significantly. An attempt is made in this paper to exploit high potential of current day technology to have an automatic solution to get the information needed by RCCs before planning a SAR mission.

It is observed that all the necessary information needed to plan SAR mission is available with the Cospas-Sarsat network but needs to be made available to correct people at correct time. Cospas-Sarsat has a good number of LUTs and MCCs to detect distress alerts, and a well-established MCCs and communications network to distribute them. As the application of Internet technology is growing fast for dissemination of information to any part of the world and is easily accessible by anyone, it is time to exploit the benefits of this technology in the management of Cospas-Sarsat distress alerts.

3. COMMENTS

Minimum Requirements

- Each Cospas-Sarsat MCC to have an Internet facility with necessary software to access the beacon registration information.
- The registration databases of 406 MHz beacons will have to be made available on Internet by all registration authorities and national administrations. The access will be through a valid password provided by the Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat. For security reasons, the information through the registration database may be restricted by providing minimum

details on vessel or aircraft needed for SAR operations (such as vessel/aircraft name, call sign, MMSI, owner name and contact numbers).

- the updating of the database will be the responsibility of the concerned administration of that country or MCC.

Methodology

It is proposed to have distributed database instead of going for a centralised database system that has many problem to handle huge number of records and regular updating.

1. From the knowledge of the country of beacon registration, the source of beacon registry will be known i.e. where the registration data is available for the beacon and what is the Internet address, along with alternate options if prime source fails to supply the information.
2. For each country or MCC, Internet address will be provided by the secretariat in DDP to retrieve registration information. Through a query-based retrieval system using authorized password, it will be possible to get the registration information (similar to ship information as provided by Cospas-Sarsat website using ITU database).
3. Concerned RCC after having received the alert will be able to directly handle retrieval of registration information without the support of MCC.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

As false alarming is the main problem in handling the Cospas-Sarsat alerts, the proposed scheme would help to a great extent in dealing with this problem. The Task Group may consider this approach for easy and quick method of getting beacon registration information. The recommendations are:

- ⇒ To have distributed database system for maintaining beacon registration information.
- ⇒ Access may be provided to authorised users through password.