

IMSO



International
Mobile Satellite
Organization

To: All Parties to the IMSO Convention

From: IMSO Director

Subject: **LONG RANGE IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF SHIPS (LRIT): CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CANADA**

Date: 14 April 2008

Reference: IMSO/2008/MS/026

Dear Sirs

I am delighted to inform IMSO Member States that, on 7 April 2008, I have signed a "Contribution Agreement" with the Government of Canada whereby Canada has agreed to provide funding over the period 2007 to 2010 to be used towards establishing international intergovernmental oversight and auditing regime for LRIT. I have today received a cheque for Canadian dollars 80,000 relating to 2007/08.

In the Contribution Agreement, the Government of Canada has stressed its support to the view of IMO that intergovernmental oversight is critical to the long term viability and sustainability of the international LRIT system.

This significant and generous contribution has been made in response to my continued requests to IMSO Member States for LRIT start up funding.

I am taking this opportunity to once again stress to IMSO Member States that LRIT start up funding remains a significant issue. Despite funds, or funding in kind, so far received from Australia, Canada, Chile, Malta and Turkey, there continues to be a significant shortfall, by some 90 percent, in the necessary funding which severely prejudices IMSO's ability to fulfil all its functions as LRIT Coordinator, as appointed by IMO.

99 City Road, London EC1Y 1AX
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7728 1249
Facsimile: +44 (0)20 7728 1172

Email: info@imso.org
Website: www.imso.org

I therefore once again seek the active assistance of IMSO Member States to identify and make available a contribution to the necessary LRIT funding in order to enable IMSO to begin its work of coordinating the global implementation of LRIT at the earliest possible moment. To contribute to this process, I would encourage you to consider any contribution to the fund, however small, to the LRIT budget.

This issue will continue to be discussed in the Advisory Committee and I intend to bring this matter to the attention of the International Maritime Organization at the meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee in May, as well as to the IMSO Assembly in September.

I am also taking this opportunity to inform you that I have had no responses to my letter of 6 March 2008, reference IMSO/2008/MS/025, in which I requested assistance with the writing, testing and implementation of the LRIT audit software. I would be grateful, therefore, to receive any expressions of interest and support in this important issue.

Yours faithfully



Esteban Pacha-Vicente
Director