



International Mobile Satellite Organization

ASSEMBLY

Twentieth Session

Malta, 29 September to 3 October 2008

Agenda item 7

ASSEMBLY/20/7.1

Origin: Director

Date: 25 June 2008

LONG RANGE IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF SHIPS (LRIT)

BACKGROUND

<i>Executive Summary:</i>	this document provides background information on developments relating to Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT)
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	to note the information provided
<i>Related documents:</i>	ASSEMBLY/20/8.1, Section 9

1 NINETEENTH (EXTRAORDINARY) SESSION OF THE IMSO ASSEMBLY

1.1 At its Nineteenth (Extraordinary) Session, the Assembly noted that the eighty-second Session of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO MSC) had:

- (a) approved Interim LRIT Technical Specifications and other matters;
- (b) decided to appoint IMSO as the LRIT Co-ordinator and invited IMSO to take whatever action it could in order to ensure the timely implementation of the LRIT system. The Committee also invited IMSO to submit a paper to its next session giving a detailed analysis of how it intended to undertake the role;
- (c) decided that any necessary contingency plan for SOLAS Contracting Governments should be under the purview and be the responsibility of IMSO; and

- (d) noted that the relevant provisions of the functions of the LRIT Co-ordinator in the Performance Standards permitted the LRIT Co-ordinator to recover the costs of its services, and that, in that respect, only the funding of start-up costs would be necessary.

1.2 The Assembly also noted information regarding the measures required to fulfil the functions of the LRIT Co-ordinator, in particular information on LRIT start up funding, the planned LRIT fee structure, the LRIT business plan, the functions of the LRIT Co-ordinator, and the budgetary implications.

1.3 The Assembly further noted that the Director will continue to refine the Budget for LRIT, will endeavour to find appropriate sources of funding for the start up of LRIT, and will report on a regular basis to the Advisory Committee on all aspects of LRIT.

1.4 The Assembly also decided that *“the Organization may assume the functions and duties of the LRIT Co-ordinator with effect from 7 March 2007, at no cost to Parties, in accordance with decisions of IMO, where Article 4 of the amended Convention will be applied on a provisional basis”*.

2 LRIT DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Since the Nineteenth (Extraordinary) Session, the Director and the Advisory Committee have concentrated their efforts on the following related items, including progress made at relevant IMO meetings:

- the role of IMSO as the LRIT Coordinator and measures required to fulfil these functions;
- the Request for Proposals issued by the Director for the Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of the International Data Exchange (IDE) and/or International Data Centre (IDC), responses thereto, discussions in relevant IMO fora, and contractual arrangements;
- LRIT start up funding, cost recovery and charging
- LRIT business plan;
- Provision by Turkey of a Technical Assignee.

2.2 The Committee has discussed at length the Director's LRIT business plan, in particular the charging principles and procedures, although no firm agreement was reached.

2.3 The Director reported to the Eighty-Fourth Session of the IMO MSC in May 2008 on outcome of discussions. At that Session, the IMO MSC amended the Performance Standards and Functional Requirements for LRIT.

2.4 Following the IMO MSC, the Director has continued to develop matters related to LRIT including the LRIT Business plan, the LRIT Audit Plan, the LRIT Service Agreement, the Letter of Authority to Operate in the International LRIT System, Consequential amendments relating to LRIT to the Terms of Reference of the Committee and the Functions of the Director, and LRIT financial issues. These matters will be discussed at the Twenty-Second Session of the IMSO Advisory Committee, following which a detailed report and further documents will be provided to the Assembly.

3 ACTION REQUIRED

The Assembly notes the information provided in this document on developments relating to Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships.
