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GLOBAL AERONAUTICAL DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GADSS) CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS (CONOPS) UPDATED

1. The Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) concept of operations (ConOps) was conceived at the special Multidisciplinary Meeting on Global Flight Tracking (MMGFT) held in Montréal, Canada in May 2014. As a recommendation of that meeting, the GADSS ConOps was developed and then reviewed and endorsed at the second ICAO High-level Safety Conference (HLSC2015) in February 2015.
2. The GADSS ConOps has been updated as a result of comments received from States and international organizations, who had been consulted on initial provisions to support the implementation of the concept. Version 6.0 addresses the comments received to the State letters on normal aircraft tracking, distress tracking, and post flight data recovery provision consultation. These provisions deal primarily with the onboard component requirements of the system to assist in defining practical lead times for implementation.
3. The Air Navigation Commission has arranged to use GADSS Version 6.0 as the basis for further development of provisions which are required to support the adoption of the concept. Expert groups will soon be tasked with developing these, most likely in Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) documents to complement those already in place.
4. Implementation of provisions supporting the GADSS concept will have necessary impacts on both States and industry. Timely information sharing is a key factor in finding survivors after an accident, and stakeholders (e.g. States, Search and Rescue (SAR) organizations, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP), operators) will at the very least need to amend their procedures in order to take advantage of the additional and vital information which will become available as the GADSS becomes a reality. The intent of this bulletin is to raise awareness of the GADSS ConOps Version 6.0 so that States and industry can plan accordingly.
5. The GADSS ConOps version 6.0 is available on the ICAO Global Tracking Initiatives website at: <http://www.icao.int/safety/globaltracking/Pages/Homepage.aspx>

Issued under the authority of the Secretary General