



IMSO NEWS 017

6 July 2009

LRIT SYSTEM BECOMES OPERATIONAL

The LRIT system became operational on 1 July 2009, following an intensive period of activity during the transitional period which ended on 30 June. The first periodic position LRIT message between two Data Centres was sent on the first day of operation, at 00:01:34 on 1 July.

A number of LRIT Data Centres were integrated into the original LRIT production environment at the end of 2008 (Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands and United States). In addition, during 2009, a total of eight Data Centres have been integrated into the LRIT system by IMSO; a further 16 Centres are in the process of finalizing developmental testing, and expected to be integrated shortly. In total, these Centres represent more than 80 percent of the world's registered fleet.

IMSO continues to be actively involved in the integration process of a further 41 Centres which are expected to be integrated by the end of 2009, leading to a total of 55 Centres overall. At the end of 2009, IMSO will start to audit those centres integrated at the end of 2008 on a phased basis in line with their integration during 2008.

IMSO has so far signed five LRIT Services Agreements with the Data Centres of Chile, EMSA (on behalf 29 European countries), India, Panama and Turkey. Further Agreements are in an advanced stage of negotiation.

The IMSO Advisory Committee will be meeting this week from 8 to 10 July 2009, which representatives of more than 26 IMSO Member States are expected to attend, together with observers from IMO, CIRM and the European Commission.

The Committee, in addition to discussing routine administrative and financial issues as well as matters related to GMDSS, will focus on the status on the implementation of the operational LRIT system.
