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IMSO SIGNS LRIT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NIGERIA



IMSO Director General Captain Esteban Pacha (right) presenting the signed LRIT Services Agreement to Mr Temisan Omatseye, Director General and Chief Executive of NIMASA.

The IMSO Director General, Captain Esteban Pacha-Vicente, today signed an LRIT Services Agreement between IMSO and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA). This Agreement represents the institutional arrangements between IMSO and NIMASA as operator of the Nigerian National LRIT Data Centre, at governmental level. NIMASA has also signed a contract with Pole Star Space Applications Limited to operate the centre on its behalf.

The Agreement was signed on behalf of NIMASA by Mr Temisan Omatseye, the Director General and Chief Executive of NIMASA who had flown from Nigeria for the day especially for the occasion. Mr Omatseye expressed his appreciation to IMSO for the dedicated work it continues to carry out to ensure the integrity and timely worldwide operation of the LRIT system. He discussed with IMSO the possibilities that the LRIT system offers to Nigeria to improve maritime safety and security, including monitoring transit and operations of ships in the area.

A total of 26 LRIT Services Agreements have now been signed.

The LRIT Services Agreement, prescribed in the IMSO Convention, establishes the relationship between IMSO, as the LRIT Coordinator appointed by IMO, and the LRIT Data Centre for the audit and review of each Data Centre. A Model LRIT Services Agreement was approved for this purpose by the IMSO Assembly at its Twentieth Session on Malta in 2008.

The IMSO LRIT Audit Procedures provide that the LRIT Data Centre Operator should sign an LRIT Services Agreement/Contractual Arrangements with IMSO before the Audit takes place, and settle its financial obligations with IMSO before the final audit report is submitted to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee.

Six LRIT Data Centres were integrated into the original LRIT production environment at the end of 2008, and are due to be audited by IMSO at the end of 2009/beginning of 2010.

In addition, a further thirty-one LRIT Data Centres have been integrated into the LRIT system by IMSO, and will be audited during 2010 in line with the dates of their integration.

A further eleven LRIT Data Centres, including the Nigeria National Data Centre, are in the process of testing, and are expected to be integrated shortly:

This will bring the total number of LRIT Data Centres integrated by the end of 2009 to 48 overall. These Centres integrate more than 80 percent of the world's registered fleet.