



IMSO NEWS 033

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IMSO SIGNS LRIT SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH POLE STAR ON BEHALF OF THE PHILIPPINES AND SINGAPORE LRIT DATA CENTRES



IMSO Director General Capt. Esteban Pacha (right) presenting the signed LRIT Services Agreements to Mr Julian Longson of Pole Star (left)

The IMSO Director General, Captain Esteban Pacha-Vicente, today signed LRIT Services Agreements between IMSO and Pole Star Space Applications Limited on behalf of the National LRIT Data Centres of **Philippines** and **Singapore** which have delegated authority to Pole Star.

Each Agreement was signed on behalf of Pole Star by Mr Julian Longson, Director, Business Development.

A total of 39 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.

Captain Pacha expressed his satisfaction with the current level of progress on implementation of the LRIT system worldwide, and highlighted the important role that LRIT data is already playing in improving maritime security and safety worldwide. Captain Pacha said that many other Government agencies could benefit from having access to LRIT data to enhance the maritime domain awareness, and encouraged all such agencies to increase their use of LRIT data.

52 LRIT Data Centres have now been integrated now into the LRIT production environment and a further eight Centres are in the process of testing, and are expected to be integrated shortly.

IMSO is in the process of carrying out the annual audit of 25 LRIT Data Centres, as well as the interim International LRIT Data Exchange, and all Data Centres will be audited on a phased basis in line with their integration dates/start of operations, as appropriate, in accordance with the decisions of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC). IMSO will be reporting on this to the next Session of the MSC (12 to 21 May 2010).

The IMSO Directorate has also developed a “DDP tool” to reinforce its auditing capabilities in terms of better and more detailed analysis of its audit findings, which is being made available to interested SOLAS Contracting Governments on request. This tool can be used to convert Data Distribution Plan files into a readable format which can be displayed, with “Google Earth”, to show the LRIT geographical polygons.

The IMSO Director General also takes this opportunity to report that, at its Twenty-Sixth Session, held from 17 to 19 March 2010, the IMSO Advisory Committee, having thoroughly considered all proposals for revisions to the interim LRIT charging formula adopted at the Twentieth Session of the IMSO Assembly, agreed with a revised interim formula, and recommended its adoption by the IMSO Assembly (12 to 16 July 2010) for the years 2011 and 2012. The Committee expects thereafter, once detailed data is available, to continue its efforts to develop and agree a revised formula, for consideration at the next regular session of the Assembly in 2012.