



WORKING PAPER

MULTIDISCIPLINARY MEETING REGARDING GLOBAL TRACKING

Montréal, 12 to 13 May 2014

Agenda item 2: Explore the need for ICAO guidance on global tracking

**INDUSTRY INITIATIVE TO DEVELOP OPTIONS
FOR GLOBAL FLIGHT TRACKING**

(Presented by the International Air Transport Association (IATA))

SUMMARY

This working paper outlines the objectives, composition, process and timelines associated with the Task Force being established by industry to identify and evaluate potential solutions for global flight tracking.

Action: Action by the meeting is contained in Paragraph 4.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Events such as the loss of AF447 and the prolonged disappearance of MH370 have refocused attention on the need to improve global flight tracking. Working Paper No. 2 outlined an industry-led initiative to develop criteria for global flight tracking, to be facilitated through ICAO guidance material.

1.2 In early April 2014, IATA announced its intention to establish an Aircraft Tracking Task Force to identify technical and procedural options to enable flight tracking capability across the globe. IATA proposes to establish the Task Force in coordination with ICAO.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The disappearance of MH370 has again highlighted the need to improve tracking of aircraft in flight. Public perception is that in a world where every move seems to be tracked, there is disbelief both that an airplane could simply disappear and that the flight data and cockpit voice recorders could be so difficult to recover. The loss of Air France Flight 447 brought similar issues to light a few years ago and several recommendations made from an international working group were put forward to authorities. While some progress has been made, the events surrounding MH370 have once again made it evident that additional and more rapid action is required. To facilitate this action, IATA proposes to convene an expert Task Force.

2.2 *Composition.* The Task Force may include, but is not limited to, ICAO, airlines, flight safety organizations, manufacturers, air navigation service providers, flight tracking equipment and service providers, pilots and air traffic management experts. IATA will ensure that participation is limited to a manageable number and has the required skill mix to achieve desired outcomes.

2.3 *Objectives.* The Task Force will examine available options for tracking commercial airplanes, considering implementation, time, complexity and cost efficiency to achieve the desired coverage. In particular, the Task Force will assess the responses to the ICAO vendor survey and examine existing capabilities to determine potential solutions against elements such as reporting parameters and intervals, reliability, accuracy and coverage. The Task Force will develop recommended options based on performance requirements to implement global airplane tracking.

2.4 *Timeline.* The Task Force will initiate its work following the Multidisciplinary Meeting and will develop a draft report with recommendations within 120 days. Following required coordination, the Task Force will issue its final report within 150 days of the Multidisciplinary Meeting.

2.5 Terms of Reference will be established for the Task Force.

2.6 The Task Force will remain intact pending the action of the report.

3. **CONCLUSIONS**

3.1 The most expeditious means to establish criteria and identify solutions for global flight tracking is through an industry-led, ICAO supported initiative. However, industry recognizes that ICAO Standards will likely be needed to ensure full (global) implementation and uniform regulatory frameworks.

4. **ACTION BY THE MEETING**

4.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) endorse the establishment of the Aircraft Tracking Task Force;
- b) comment on the composition and timelines of the Task Force; and
- c) upon request, provide subject matter experts to assist in the work of the Task Force.

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