



Number 35 | July 2010

Radio Replacement Project

This briefing note is provided to inform you of proposed changes to Agency radio systems and how it will affect radios fitted to aircraft.

Currently CFA is undertaking a radio replacement project to replace CFA's Motorola radio terminals.

The replacement radio terminal will be able to operate in both the current analog and the new P25 digital modes. This project is due to be completed by mid 2012.

DSE will be undertaking a Radio Replacement Project which is due to start in July 2010.

Preliminary work has been commenced on requirements for the new radio. This project will be replacing DSE's Motorola radio terminal.

The replacement radio terminal is envisaged to be interoperable with the CFA radio terminal. This project is due to be completed by mid 2012.

CFA is also currently developing a digital regional dispatch network. This project is being run in parallel with their radio replacement project.

The SAU has representation on both Radio Replacement Projects to make sure that the needs of aircraft are represented.

The SAU intends to provide the highest level of interoperability achievable for aircraft operations based on the agencies requirements.

THE FACTS

- The SAU has not agreed to change from the current radio terminal in use.
- Current radio terminals in use by the SAU can be upgraded to P25 Digital mode when required.
- The SAU will continue to use the SMR Network for coordination of aircraft resources, until a suitable alternative is available.
- CFA and DSE have agreed that the current 250 conventional (simplex) channels will remain in the new radios, as the base line of interagency operability.
- CFA and DSE are currently working on a new master channel table for the new radio terminals which will include digital channels.
- SES will be adopting the 250 CFA/DSE conventional radio channels as part of their radio configuration.

- CFA's new radio terminal will not support the SMR Trunked radio network.
- CFA has agreed to retain SMR trunked radio capability in command vehicles.
- DSE will have SMR trunked capability in its new radio terminal.
- CFA has not included aircraft radio equipment in its replacement program. This will be managed by the SAU.
- CFA is planning to move to P25 digital mode once their regional dispatch network is in place.
- DSE has not indicated a timeline to move communications to P25 digital mode.
- CFA and DSE have not yet agreed on a timeline to manage joint incidents using P25 digital channels.
- The SAU will be evaluating P25 digital mode in aircraft under flight conditions over the next 24 months.
- Existing Motorola radios used in aircraft and Portable Aircraft Kits will need to be upgraded to SAU approved radios by mid 2012.

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