

SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION,
COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND
RESCUE
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Agenda item 9

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**DEVELOPMENTS IN GMDSS SERVICES, INCLUDING GUIDELINES
ON MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI)**

Interim report on BDMSS assessment

Submitted by IMSO

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides the status of the technical and operational assessment for the recognition of the BeiDou Message Service System (BDMSS) for use in GMDSS

Strategic direction, if applicable: 6

Output: 6.2

Action to be taken: Paragraph 13

Related documents: MSC 99/12/1, MSC 99/22; MSC 101/24; NCSR 7/14 and NCSR 7/23

Background

1 At its ninety-ninth session, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) considered an application by China for the recognition of the BeiDou Message Service System (BDMSS) for use in GMDSS (MSC 99/12/1) and, after consideration, referred the application to the NCSR Sub-Committee for evaluation of the detailed information, to be provided to the Sub-Committee in due course, and at the same time, had authorized the Sub-Committee to invite IMSO to conduct the technical and operational assessment, as appropriate (MSC 99/22, paragraphs 12.32 and 12.33).

2 Further to the above, NCSR 7 considered information provided by China (NCSR 7/14) on BDMSS, inviting the Sub-Committee to verify and evaluate information on pre-assessment of BDMSS in relation to the criteria established by resolution A.1001(25) and to consider inviting IMSO to conduct the technical and operational assessment.

3 After consideration, NCSR 7, noting general support for the proposal by China, invited IMSO to conduct the technical and operational assessment of BDMSS and provide a report for consideration by the Sub-Committee.

4 NCSR 7 noted that, following the decisions of MSC 101 (MSC 101/24, paragraph 21.35), the assessment of BDMSS should be conducted in accordance with the existing requirements of resolution A.1001(25), taking into account any interpretation and/or exception following the assessment of Iridium's services.

5 IMSO advised that IMSO was ready to undertake the technical and operational assessment of BDMSS, adding that an international Group of Experts (GoE) would be established for this purpose and interested parties willing to participate should contact the IMSO Directorate.

6 The Director General and the Directorate staff members met with representatives of the China Transport Telecommunications Information Group Co., Ltd. (CTTIC), the provider of BDMSS, on 17 and 22 January 2020, in order to have preliminary discussions regarding the technical and operational assessment of BDMSS.

Contractual and financial arrangements

7 An agreement was signed on 2 July 2020 between IMSO and CTTIC to facilitate the technical and operational assessment of BDMSS. The contract included a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to ensure the protection of CTTIC's confidential proprietary information. IMSO and CTTIC have agreed to retain the contract in force until either voluntary termination of the agreement according to the terms of the agreement or formal approval or rejection of China's application by MSC.

8 In accordance with the terms of the agreement, IMSO is entitled to recover from CTTIC, in advance, the full costs for the necessary work, including fees and expenses for IMSO and members of the GoE. IMSO and CTTIC agreed to implement the agreement with effect from January 2020 in order to enable reimbursement of IMSO for any costs or expenses incurred related to the BDMSS prior to 2 July 2020. IMSO established a dedicated bank account into which funds were deposited by CTTIC to cover the above-mentioned costs.

Technical and operational assessment

9 In order to conduct the necessary work in a transparent, professional, and fair manner, and without causing any undue disruption to the existing responsibilities of the Directorate staff members, the Director General established the GoE to conduct the technical and operational assessment of BDMSS. In selecting the members of the GoE, the Director General exercised due diligence in line with the practices followed in the past, consisting of government seconded and independent experts.

10 The Director General will maintain flexibility concerning the composition of the GoE and may request the services of the experts, as needed, or may engage new experts on full or part-time basis depending on their fields of expertise for the purpose of conducting the assessment at optimal level.

11 The technical and operational assessment of BDMSS is currently underway and being conducted by the selected members of the GoE working in collaboration with the IMSO Directorate and under supervision of the Director General.

12 The twenty-sixth session of the Assembly of the IMSO was held from 16 to 22 December 2020, during which an update on assessment of BDMSS was presented to Member States. IMSO received assessment documents and responses from CTTIC in batches. A GoE meeting was held by IMSO Director in January 2021 to review technical and operational details.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

13 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided in this document in general and, in particular, that:

- .1 an agreement was signed on 2 July 2020 between IMSO and CTTIC to facilitate the technical and operational assessment of BDMSS (paragraph 7);
 - .2 the Director General established the GoE to conduct the technical and operational assessment of BDMSS (paragraph 9); and
 - .3 the technical and operational assessment of BDMSS is currently underway and being conducted by the selected members of the GoE working in collaboration with the IMSO Directorate and under supervision of the Director General (paragraph 11).
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