To: All SOLAS Contracting Governments
From: Moin Ahmed, Director General, IMSO
Subject: CONSOLIDATED IMSO BRIEFING 2015-17
Date: 16 January 2018

Reference: IMSO/2018/BRIEFING/001-Rev.1

INTRODUCTION

1 IMSO Directorate has continued to provide regular briefings to the SOLAS Contracting Governments. However, despite best efforts, a number of States were not able to participate in such briefings. Hence, this consolidated report has been prepared for the years 2015 to 2017, in order to update SOLAS Party States regarding the progress the Organization is making in key areas.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2 Background

IMO continues to perform its role as the global intergovernmental regulatory oversight body protecting maritime public safety services (Global Maritime Distress Safety System - GMDSS) on behalf of the 163 SOLAS (International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea) Contracting Governments. It also serves as the Coordinator of the international system for the Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) and functions effectively to meet safety, security and marine environmental protection needs of these Governments.

3 Facilitation for integration of an additional GMDSS Satellite Operator

Carried out technical and operational assessment of the Iridium Satellite system seeking GMDSS provider recognition, with the submission of the assessment report for IMO’s consideration.

For 2018: The assessment report is awaiting NCSR Sub-Committee’s consideration in February 2018 and IMSO will follow through the outcome of IMO’s consideration.

4 Evaluation of Inmarsat’s FleetBroadBand (FBB) Service

Carried out technical and operational assessment of Inmarsat’s new products FBB for adoption to GMDSS, with the submission of the assessment report for IMO’s consideration.

For 2018: The assessment report is awaiting NCSR Sub-Committee’s consideration in February 2018 and IMSO will follow through the outcome of IMO’s consideration.

5 Preparation of a new Reference Public Services Agreement (PSA)

Carried out consultation and legal coordination with Inmarsat and Iridium, in order to finalise a revised Reference PSA for the benefits of SOLAS Contracting Governments with the support of the Advisory Committee.
For 2018: IMSO will continue to work with both Iridium and Inmarsat to finalise the Reference PSA in time for submission to the forthcoming Assembly.

6 Operational monitoring

The monitoring of the availability of both space and ground segments to support the global GMDSS requirements at all times continues to be carried out on a regular basis.

For 2018: IMSO will continue to monitor the status of GMDSS service provisioning by the Satellite service provider.

7 Execution of LRIT audits

The backlog of audits has been completed and 2017 audits are on target for completion.

For 2018: IMSO will carry out LRIT scheduled audits for 2018 timeframe.

8 LRIT audit fee

Having taken the office in 2015, the Director General have continued with the process initiated by his predecessor to minimise audit fees so they reach a more acceptable level for SOLAS Contracting Governments (as shown in chart below) and have been able to reduce and maintain the same LRIT cost base and audit fee successfully for three consecutive years (no increase in LRIT audit fee in 2018, as well).

For 2018: Will continue to make every effort to maintain lower LRIT audit fee in the interest of SOLAS Contracting Governments.

9 LRIT implementation

An ongoing process of engagement with SOLAS Contracting Governments is in progress to demonstrate the benefits of joining the LRIT system. This engagement has resulted in an increasing number of SOLAS Contracting Governments expressing interest to join the LRIT system, which in its turn is helping to implement the LRIT and also to reduce the overall cost base (audit fee) for all the SOLAS States.

Furthermore, over a period of time some LRIT Data Centres (DCs) went out of function. However, with persistent dialogues between the Director General and the concerned State authorities, these DCs have been made operational, resulting not only enhanced LRIT implementation but also have enhanced Organization's LRIT income and its financial sustainability. This also allowed the Director General to affect the restructuring of the IMSO Directorate (as approved by A 24) without increasing the LRIT audit fee.

For 2018:

.1 Will continue to encourage more SOLAS Contracting Governments to join the LRIT system for its enhanced implementation; and

.2 Will deliver an international LRIT seminar at IMO HQ in February 2018 with objective of promoting the LRIT system and for the capacity-building of SOLAS States.
LRIT Audit fees 2012 to 2018 for an average Data Centre with 1 flag and 21 to 250 vessels

- LRIT fee for an average Data Centre with one flag and 20 to 251 vessels in 2012 was £9,500 compared to £3,900 in 2016, 2017 and 2018;

- Since taking the office in April 2015, the Director General has continued to put all possible efforts to reduce and maintain the LRIT Audit fee as low as possible.

10 Organization's representation

The IMSO Directorate continued to participate and/or submit input documents in to various international organizations such as IMO, IHO and other relevant bodies.

For 2018: Will participate in IMO, ITU, IHO and other relevant meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

11 IMSO Headquarters relocation

The Director General has been in discussion with IMO Secretary-General for possible relocation of IMSO HQ to the IMO building.

For 2018: Will continue to coordinate with the IMO Administration to relocate IMSO HQ to the IMO building by March 2018.

12 Financial matters

The Director General has continued to maintain a prudent cost base even with the increased volume of activities in 2016 and 2017 and has returned savings on GMDSS to Inmarsat and accumulated a healthy LRIT surplus.

For 2018: Will continue to minimise costs as and where possible in the interest of all parties, both Member Governments and GMDSS Operators.