

ASAP STATUS REPORT

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

The purpose of this document is to inform CGMS Members of the current status of the ASAP Programme.

ACTION PROPOSED

CGMS Members are invited to noted the report

ANNUAL REPORT 2002

The operational statistics of radiosoundings performed in 2002 within the framework of the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP) are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. The total amount of radiosoundings is 5158, significantly lesser than 2001's one: 5424. This overall decrease (-5%) is mainly due to INMARSAT transmission problems encountered by Spain, and also to slight decreases of the radiosoundings performed by France and the United Kingdom. However the number is still higher than those of 2000. Unfortunately, two important countries (Russia and USA) have, temporarily at least, stopped their ASAP activities. The ASAP Panel encourages these countries to implement new ASAP ships specially on routes where upper-air data are sparse.

The total number of ASAP units operated in 2002 was 22; the operators were: Denmark (3 units), EUMETNET (2 units), France (4 units), Germany (2 units), Japan (6 units), Spain (1 unit), Sweden-Iceland (2 units), United Kingdom (1 unit) and WRAP (1 unit). This document includes the individual national reports and the monitoring reports provided by ECMWF, EUMETSAT and Meteo-France.

The performance of ASAP radiosoundings is stable with respect to the terminal height. However, we can note a decrease of 1 km in average terminal sounding height. The communication efficiency of Germany has been improved probably due to the transmission change from EUMETSAT to INMARSAT.

The ASAP Panel (ASAPP) consists of a group of national operators along with ECMWF, EUMETSAT and eventually with invited manufacturers. The last meeting, ASAP XIII was held in Goa, India, as a component of the first session of the joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) Ship Observations Team, 25 February-2 March 2002. The session was attended by ASAP operators from Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, and United States. EUMETSAT participated in the meeting as well as the WRAP project leader. The meeting was also attended by representatives of manufacturers (Vaisala) and external projects (SeaKeepers).

The geographical distribution of ASAP soundings in 2002 corresponds approximately to those of 2001. Figure 2, provided by Meteo France, shows the location of all the TEMP-SHIP messages received in Toulouse (France) during 2002. As in previous years, one can see that most soundings continued to be located over the North Atlantic Ocean.

EUMETNET has started an ASAP programme, called E-ASAP. In a first instance, two routes have been implemented, one within the Mediterranean and the second between the English Channel and the south-eastern seaboard of the US. A third EUMETNET ASAP will be procured for operations in the Mediterranean. Starting 2003, all European ASAP activities are to be progressively integrated with E-ASAP.

Moreover since the beginning of 2002, France has transferred radiosounding operations from Met. personnel ship's crew and ceased ASAP activities with 2 units along the Caribbean route. It has been decided to implement by the beginning of 2003, a new line with 2 units towards Canada.

The main goal of the ASAP is to encourage and assist the implementation of ASAP units over sparse ocean areas but also to keep continuously improving the radiosounding performances over seas.

Finally, the ongoing objective of the ASAPP in 2003, will be to continue to increase the amount of ASAP data over the oceans especially the North Atlantic Ocean and the Southern Hemisphere (WRAP project to be supported).

Annual evolution of ASAP since 1995

TABLE 1

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Average
Denmark	772	772	954	701	752	768	648	659	753
EUMETNET						27	464	598	363
France	1336	1249	1383	1364	1421	1360	1385	1309	1351
Germany	2147	2061	1439	1139	1210	956	1309	1037	1412
Japan	630	707	747	956	1098	871	1073	1069	894
Russia		109	84	209	138	69	0	0	87
Spain	174	130	175	0	0	3	107	0	73
Sweden-Iceland	35	259	331	265	174	117	129	176	185
United Kingdom	110	145	53	0	151	220	276	246	150
United States	366	277	418	167	752	25	0	0	250
WRAP							33	64	48
TOTAL	5570	5709	5584	4801	5696	4416	5424	5158	5566
Change to previous year	11%	2%	-2%	-14%	19%	-22%	23%	-5%	

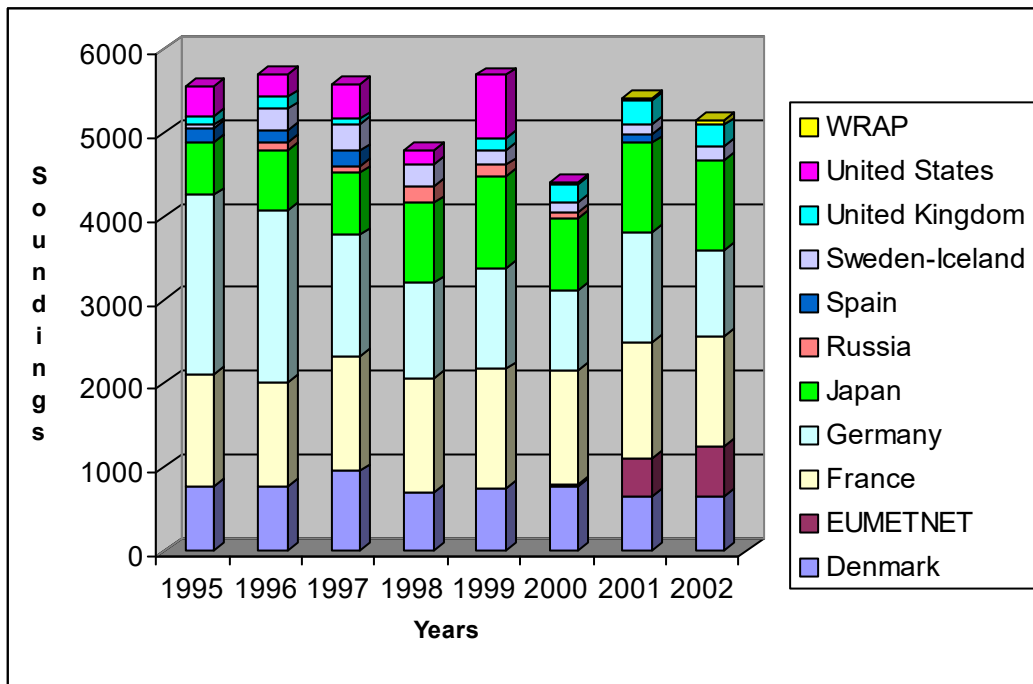


Table 2. Statistics on ASAP units operated during 2002

Operator	ASAP Units	Number of soundings	Average terminal sounding height (km)	Percentage of data on % the GTS
Denmark	3	659	19.8	-
EUMETNET	2	598	20.9	92.2
France	4	1309	21.5	95.7
Germany	2	1037	20	78.2
Japan	6	1069	24.2	91.9
Russia	0	0	-	-
Spain	1	0	-	-
Sweden-Iceland	2	176	20	73
United Kingdom	1	246	23.6	93.8
United States	0	0	-	-
WRAP	1	64	24.9	74
Total or average	22	5158	21.5	77.6

Figure 1 see file WMO WP 13 Annex A.pdf

Figure 2 see file WMO WP-13 Annex B.pdf

Figure 3 see file WMO WP 13 Annex C.pdf