To: All Iris Users
Date: 04/04/2025
Subject: Entry Into Service of the Iris Ground-Ground Router and associated network upgrades

Internal ESSP classification: BLUE

This Service Notice informs all Iris Users of the Entry Into Service (EIS) of the Iris Ground-Ground Router (Iris GGR) and the associated network upgrades as well as the associated publication of the new version 02-00 of the Iris Service Definition Document and applicability. It also provides information about the migration towards the full entry into service.

The EIS of this Iris GGR along with the associated network upgrades is the technical solution that allows to segregate the routing information for an Iris Working Agreement (IWA) Signatory ANSP and non-IWA Signatory ANSP.

This segregation ensures that all messages (uplink and downlink) exchanged between Iris equipped aircraft and non-IWA Signatory ANSPs (i.e. only-VDL ANSP) are forwarded only through the VDLm2 data link. Besides, it ensures that all messages (uplink and downlink) between Iris equipped aircraft and IWA Signatory ANSPs are performed through SatCom or VDLm2 based on the availability of the Air/Ground (A/G) links.

This technical solution was also notified in the Iris Service Implementation Roadmap issue 01-00 published on January 2024 informing of the following milestone:

- Deployment of the new Iris ground-ground router domain (i.e. the Iris GGR) planned in Q3 2024.

The new version 02-00 of the Iris Service Definition Document includes the updated specification applicable with the entry into service of this new Iris GGR. This version is now available at the ESSP Iris User Support Website.

The IWA Signatory ANSPs need to migrate their connection from the existing SITA GGR to the new SITA Iris GGR. A transition period is planned for this aim so that each IWA Signatory ANSP can migrate gradually.

This migration of the IWA Signatory ANSPs is planned in two phases to ensure the continuity of the service:

Phase 1:

Viasat SatCom sub-network is connected to the new Iris GGR and at the same time remains connected to the exiting SITA GGR. Besides, Viasat SatCom sub-network advertises generic routes to aircraft.

In that way, both IWA Signatory ANSPs who have not migrated yet and IWA Signatory ANSPs who have already migrated can use Iris Service.

During phase 1, the issue with the non-IWA Signatory ANSPs is not fixed yet. In this phase 1, the new specifications related to the communications between Iris equipped aircraft and non-IWA Signatory ANSPs provided in the Iris Service Definition Document (Iris SDD) issue 02-00 (i.e. section 4.2 of the Iris SDD) are not yet applicable.

All the IWA Signatory ANSPs who wish to continue using Iris Service without interruption, are expected to migrate during this phase 1.

Phase 2:

This phase 2 starts with the so-called cut-off planned during the night from the 26th to the 27th of May.

This cut-off technically means that Viasat SatCom sub-network will be disconnected to the exiting SITA GGR. Besides, Viasat SatCom sub-network will advertise to aircraft the reachability of only the IWA Signatory ANSPs (i.e. advertisement of specific routes) through the SatCom data link.

From this cut-off on, the issue with the non-IWA Signatory ANSPs will be fixed. Therefore, all the new specification related to the communications between Iris equipped aircraft and non-IWA Signatory ANSPs provided in the Iris Service Definition Document (Iris SDD) issue 02-00 are valid and applicable (i.e. section 4.2 of the Iris SDD).

ESSP will synchronise the migration with all the IWA Signatory ANSPs to properly plan and implement Phase 1 and Phase 2.

ESSP will provide each IWA Signatory ANSP with migration related documentation to support the migration.

ESSP will coordinate with SITA and Viasat the migration of each IWA Signatory ANSPs.

Users are kindly reminded to update their contact information (i.e. IWA Point(s) of Contact) and utilize the newly provided e-mail addresses for all future communications.

This Service Notice will be updated accordingly to keep all Stakeholders informed.

1   IRIS STATUS AND PERFORMANCES

Latest information on Iris system status and performances can be found at the ESSP Iris User Support website at https://satcom-dls-support.essp-sas.eu/iris/

Users can subscribe to Iris documentation updates in the ESSP Iris User Support website https://satcom-dls-support.essp-sas.eu/iris-documentation-subscription

2   ANSPS PARTICIPATING IN IRIS FLIGHTS

The IWA Signatory ANSPs who are using Iris Service are provided at https://satcom-dls-support.essp-sas.eu/resources-tools/

This section shows the air space in which Iris Service is being provided. The information will be updated once the Service provision with any ANSPs is modified.

3   CONTACT US

Should you have any question related to this Service Notice or the Iris Service, please, contact https://satcom-dls-support.essp-sas.eu/service-desk

For more information about the Iris Service, visit the Iris User Support website at https://satcom-dls-support.essp-sas.eu/