

IMSO



International
Mobile Satellite
Organization

Mr Jeffrey G. Lantz
National and International Standards
United States Coast Guard
2100 Second St SW
Washington DC 20593
United States of America

3 December 2007

Dear Mr Lantz

ESTABLISHING THE INTERIM INTERNATIONAL DATA EXCHANGE FOR THE LRIT SYSTEM - ASSISTANCE FROM IMSO

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted Resolution MSC.243(83) on 12 October 2007, recognizing the establishment of the International LRIT Data Exchange on an interim basis pursuant to the offer of the United States to host, build and operate such an Exchange, as elaborated in document MSC 83/6/3.

As you are aware, IMSO is appointed by IMO to be the Co-ordinator for LRIT, and I am therefore writing to you to establish formal contact between us and offer the assistance of IMSO in establishing the International LRIT Data Exchange in the most efficient and effective manner.

It will be extremely helpful to our efforts to co-ordinate the early start-up of the international LRIT system if you would notify IMSO, at the earliest possible opportunity, of the name and contact details of your formal Point of Contact for the LRIT IDE, with whom we should conduct further discussions on this subject, and any updated information about plans for implementing the LRIT IDE in the United States.

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You will, of course, be aware that the timescales for implementing LRIT are extremely tight, and very many countries may have difficulty meeting the implementation schedule. It has been recognized that the establishment of the International LRIT Data Exchange has a key and pivotal role in the LRIT system architecture and, therefore, the implementation of the IDE at an early stage is critical to the effective implementation of the LRIT globally. One of the key responsibilities of the LRIT Co-ordinator is to assist with the establishment of parts of the LRIT infrastructure, including participation in the testing for the integration of new LRIT Data Centres into the LRIT system and participation in the testing of new or modified procedures or arrangements for communications between the International LRIT Data Exchange and the LRIT Data Centres.

As LRIT Coordinator, IMSO is already active in providing such assistance, and I am pleased to be able to offer the services of IMSO to help assess your present plans for implementing the LRIT International Data Exchange. We are already undertaking visits to those countries who have requested them, and it appears clear that interconnectivity between future LRIT Data Centres and the LRIT IDE is one of the elements that should be developed at the earliest opportunity.

Since IMSO has not yet received the full start-up funding it needs to carry out this LRIT work, it would be expected you to pay the total costs associated to this preliminary work, including professional, travel and subsistence costs. These costs will contribute to the funding of the IMSO budget. I urge you to consider the advantages of accepting the assistance of IMSO on this basis at an early stage in order to better prepare the effective implementation of the LRIT system worldwide.

I am also taking this opportunity to once again request your active assistance in making available a contribution, however small, to the necessary funding in order to enable IMSO to fulfil its functions as LRIT Coordinator and to commence in earnest its work of coordinating the global implementation of LRIT at the earliest possible moment.

I am copying this letter to Mr Steve Lett, International Communications and Information Policy, US Department of State and to Mr William R. Meara, Counsellor for Environment, Science and Technology, United States Embassy, London, for their information.

I remain, as always, available to discuss with you any of the issues raised in this letter at any time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Esteban Pacha', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Esteban Pacha
Director