

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

- (1) CGMS Members are invited to note the report.
 - (2) EUMETSAT to discuss efforts to improve the communication efficiency in Germany with regard to ASAP.
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DISCUSSION

ASAP ANNUAL REPORT 2001

1. The operational statistics of radiosoundings performed in 2001 within the framework of the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP) are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. The number of radiosoundings is about 5300, similar to the average of most previous years, due to specific observational programmes or changes in total number of ASAP units. However, it is important to note the substantial increase compared to the 4416 soundings obtained in 2000. This increase can largely be ascribed to a large enhancement in the number of soundings carried out by Japan, Germany and EUMETNET. At the same time, two countries (Russia and the USA) have, temporarily at least, ceased their ASAP activities. The total number of ASAP units operated in 2001 was 24; the operators were: Denmark (3 units), EUMETNET (2 units), France (4 units), Germany (3 units), Japan (7 units), Spain (1 unit), Sweden-Iceland (1 unit), United Kingdom (2 units) and WRAP (1 unit). This document includes the individual national reports and the monitoring reports provided by ECMWF, EUMETSAT and Météo-France.
2. The performance of ASAP operators is quite stable with respect to the terminal height. However, the communication efficiency of Germany and Spain remains low. EUMETSAT has been informed of this problem and will propose solutions.
3. The ASAP Panel (ASAPP) consists of a group of national operators along with ECMWF and EUMETSAT. Its annual meeting, ASAPP-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, United Kingdom, United States, Russia and Japan. 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).
4. The geographical distribution of ASAP soundings in 2001 corresponds approximately to those of 2000. Figure 2, provided by Météo France, shows the location of all the TEMP-SHIP messages received in Toulouse (France) during 2001. It can be seen that most soundings continued to be located over the North Atlantic Ocean.
5. EUMETNET, a meteorological network grouping 18 European national meteorological services, has started an ASAP programme, called E-ASAP. In the 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. These two units are operational, and the first results are reported here.
6. Another main goal of the ASAPP is to encourage and assist the implementation of ASAP units in data sparse ocean areas, especially in the Southern Hemisphere where upper air soundings are very few. The WRAP (Worldwide Recurring ASAP Project) is a very good example of success for the ASAP Panel, with contributions from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The first results of this operation are reported in this document.
7. Finally, the ongoing objective of the ASAPP in 2002 will be to continue to increase the amount of ASAP data over the oceans, especially in the Southern Hemisphere.

Annual evolution of ASAP since 1994

TABLE 1

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Average
Denmark	806	772	772	954	701	752	768	648	718
EUMETNET							27	464	245
France	1389	1336	1249	1383	1364	1421	1360	1385	1371
Germany	1925	2147	2061	1439	1139	1210	956	1309	1481
Japan	530	630	707	747	956	1098	871	1073	925
Russia			109	84	209	138	69	0	54
Spain	77	174	130	175	0	0	3	107	93
Sweden-Iceland		35	259	331	265	174	117	129	163
United Kingdom	287	110	145	53	0	151	220	276	207
United States		366	277	418	167	752	25	0	167
WRAP								33	
TOTAL	5014	5570	5709	5584	4801	5696	4416	5424	5424
Change to previous year		11%	2%	-2%	-14%	19%	-22%	23%	

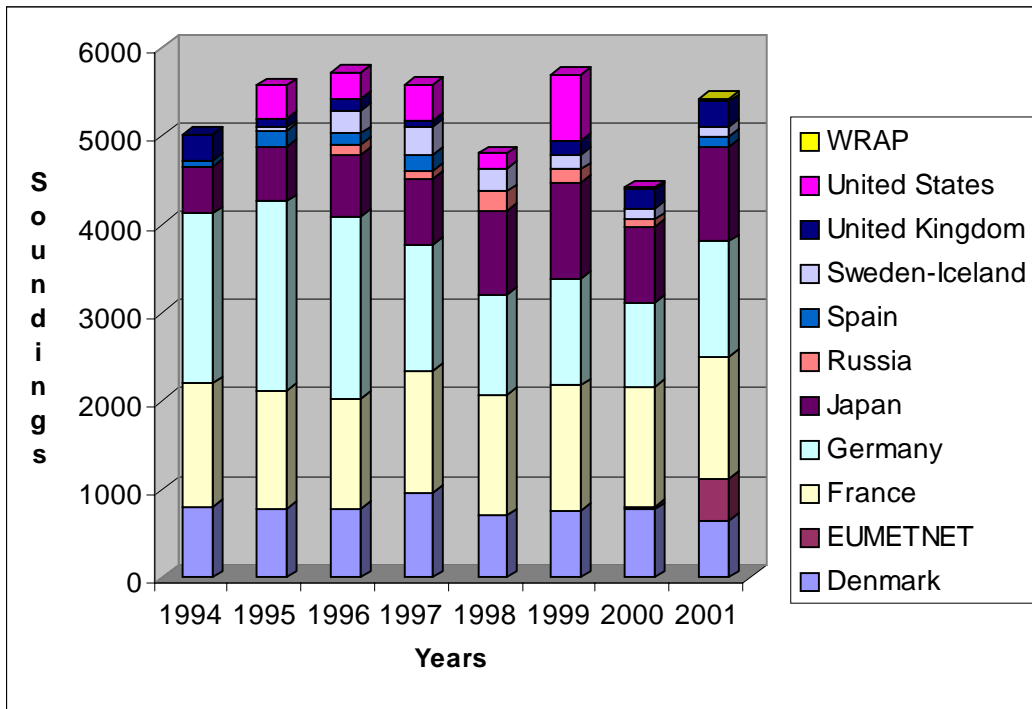
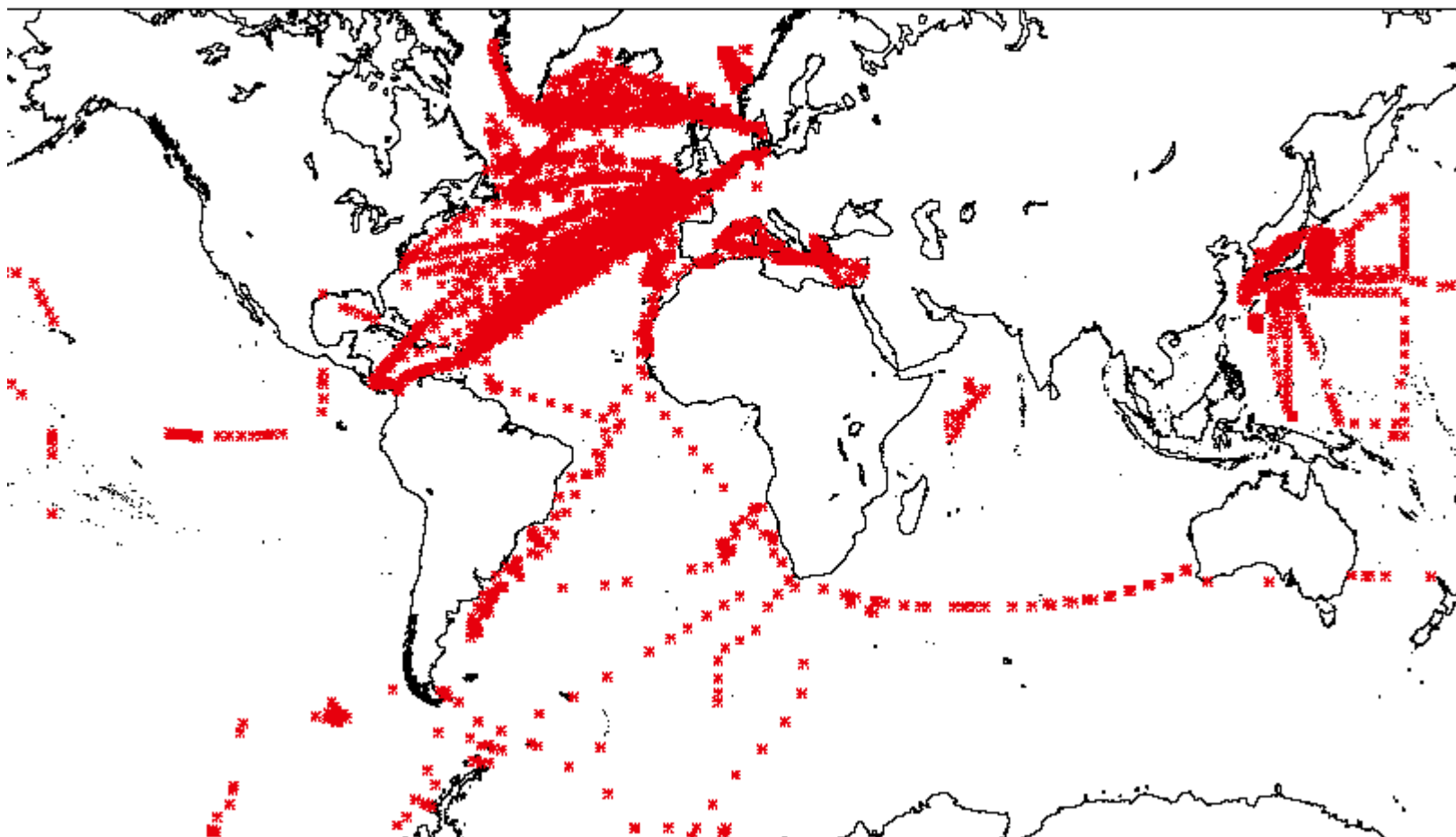


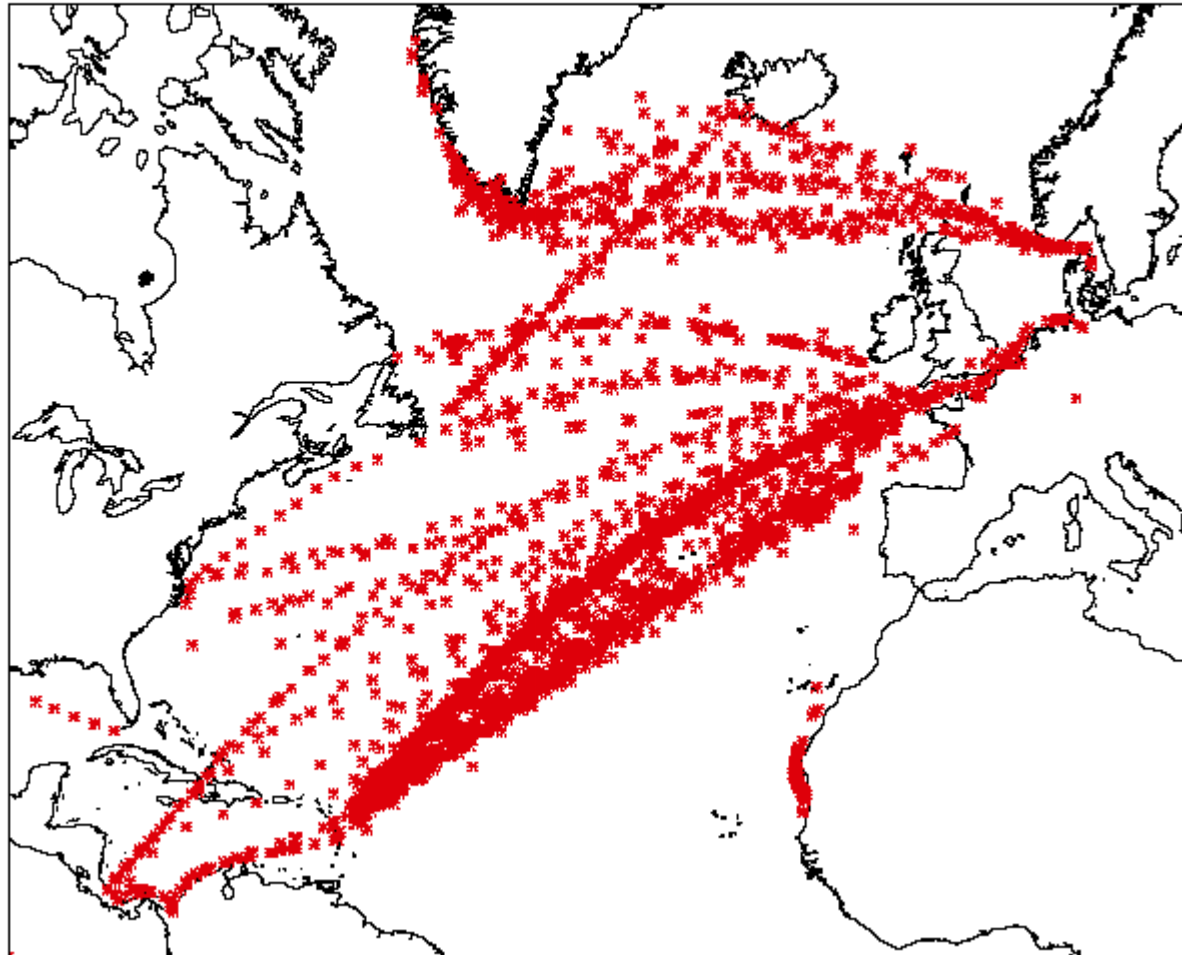
Table 2				
Statistics on ASAP units operated during 2001				
Operator	ASAP Units	Number of soundings	Average terminal sounding height (km)	Percentage of data on the GTS
Denmark	3	648	19.8	99
EUMETNET	2	464		91.5
France	4	1385	22.5	95.8
Germany	3	1309	22.8	64
Japan	7	1073	25.2	80.8
Russia	0			
Spain	1	107	21	63
Sweden-Iceland	1	129	18.3	78
United Kingdom	2	276	24.7	92
United States	0			
WRAP	1	33	25.2	93
Total or average	24	5324	22.4	84.1

POINTAGE DES TEMPSHIP 2001

DANS LE MONDE



POINTAGE DES TEMPSHIP 2001 EN ATLANTIQUE NORD



POINTAGE DES TEMPSHIP 2001 EN MEDITERRANEE

