

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

DISCUSSION

SOT/ASAPP has been attempting to increase the global coverage of ASAP ships but has had difficulty doing so due, mainly, to the high cost associated with operating such systems. However, the North Atlantic and Mediterranean is now better covered thanks to continuing efforts of the E-ASAP Programme, which is also targeting ships operating in sensitive areas for weather prediction. Three new E-ASAP units were procured and installed during 2004/2005 and by 2005 a total of 17 E-ASAP ships had produced 4200 upper air messages. During the next phase of the E-ASAP programme development (2007-2011) the objective is to produce 5800 upper air soundings from 18 ships. It is also planned to increase the level of managerial and operational integration of national ASAP units into the programme. In addition E-ASAP aims to contribute to the World Weather Watch by providing up to 10% of additional soundings outside of the European (EUCOS) areas of direct interest, and also makes contributions to the Ekofisk and OWS Mike oceanic upper air platforms. Results of the E-ASAP OSE on the impact of ASAPs in the Atlantic will be available in 2006. High telecommunication costs do prevent from transmitting the high-resolution data in real-time in BUFR format. ASAP monitoring continues to be routinely performed by ECMWF and Météo-France. The WRAP (World Re-occurring ASAP Programme) was officially terminated in April 2005 because of the difficulties in maintaining a viable and cost effective service.