



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF VATSIM**

### **HELD ON TEAMSPEAK ON SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

#### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes from the previous meeting read and confirmed
4. Matters arising from the previous meeting / action items
  1. GRP: Verify additions: Final Update – BW
  2. DCRM Assignments – BW
  3. Region Country List – PN
  4. VATSIM Facebook Group – PN
  5. Special Center Approval Process – PN
  6. RD and DRD Staff Forum Access – PN
5. Region Reports
6. General Business
  1. VAP (VATSIM Award Program) – IJ and PN
  2. VATSIM Hit Squad – BW
  3. S3-C1 Rating Realignment Trial – BW, DA, TG
  4. Language on Division Websites – PN
  5. Data Services Update – PN

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Meeting Opened** at 12:45 hours UTC

### **2. Present:**

- Bryan Wollenberg (BW) (VATSIM North America) - Chair
- Apostolos Damkalis (AD) (VATSIM Europe)
- Ilan Jonas (IJ) (VATSIM Africa Middle East)
- Mark Richards (MR) (VATSIM Oceania)
- Peter Nielson (PN) (Vice President - Regions)
- Thomas George (TG) (VATSIM Europe)
- Steven Cullen (SC) (VATSIM President)
- Kyle Ramsey (KR) (Vice President - Operations)

### **3. Apologies:**

- Daniel Abella
- Alfred Tang

### **4. Welcome:**

Bryan welcomed all members to the meeting, and congratulated both Steven Cullen and Kyle Ramsey on their new roles on the VATSIM BOG.

### **5. Matters arising from the previous meeting:**

**5.1 Minutes from the meeting** on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2012 as distributed and posted on the VATSIM Website were taken as read and accepted.

**Moved MR, Seconded IJ. CARRIED**

**5.2 GRP Additions:** All RDs reported that updates to the GRP are appropriate and up-to-date, including all major airports and special centers.

**5.3 DCRM Assignments:** BW reported that all DCRM assignments appear to have been made appropriately, with information relayed to Norman Blackburn. There are no outstanding openings for DCRMs.

**5.4 Region Country List:** BW reported that all countries in the Region Lists for VATSIM Documents have been verified and updated where necessary. PN confirms that all changes

were received in time for the last BoG meeting where the proposed changes were agreed on and the appropriate documents should soon be updated.

**5.5 VATSIM Facebook Group:** Several EC members noted negative material and comments had been posted on the VATSIM Facebook page, and suggested that perhaps we should not only crack down on the Facebook posts, but impose CoC violations for such posts.

PN noted that there are so many Facebook pages in existence, that it is not only difficult to crack down on them, but noted as well that we should not be policing social media not directly under the control of VATSIM, however any VATSIM trademark violations on social media or other avenues would be pursued.

**5.6 Special Center Approval Process:** BW noted possible inefficiency in the approval process for special centers, particularly Overland FSS position. IJ agreed that the process should be simplified, and suggested that BOG be taken out of the process. BW understood the desire of BOG to study the network impact of Overland FSS positions, and explained why previous BOG members mandated the approval process. As it stands, the approval process will remain unchanged.

**5.7 RD and DRD Staff Forum Access:** PN reported that all RDs and DRDs should now have appropriate access to all staff forums. BW noted that he could still not see several of the forums. SC would follow up and ensure that access was granted.

## **6. General Business:**

**6.1 VAP (VATSIM Award Program):** Little progress was made on the VATSIM Award Program, due to lack of appropriate tools on the technical side of operations. We will continue to work on this program in hopes of rolling it out as soon as possible.

**ACTION: IJ**

**6.2 VATSIM Hit Squad:** BW congratulated the VATSIM Hit Squad on their rapid deployment and success in New Zealand. BW also requested Hit Squad assistance in VATNA.

**ACTION: BW**

**6.3 S3-C1 Rating Realignment Trial:** BW reported that the S3-C1 trial had been postponed in VATCAN due to a change in senior staff members and temporary lack of resources for conducting the program appropriately. DA reported that trials in South America had not yet begun. AD suggested we extend the trial in Europe for another 60 days, with analysis of the program being conducted at the next EC meeting.

**6.4 Language on Division Websites:** PN noted the lack of uniformity of written language on Division/vACC websites, which is especially concerning when it comes to general information of

use to pilots wanting to fly in these areas. PN also noted the difficulty for visiting controllers to join Divisions/vACCs when written material is not in English.

Discussion took place regarding whether or not English should be the only official language on Division/vACC websites. IJ noted that many vACC personnel do not speak, read, or write English proficiently enough, and we could potentially be limiting their participation in VATSIM. BW noted the importance for a universal language on all websites, particular for the sake of inclusivity of Visiting Controllers, etc., and noted that websites could be presented in multiple languages where necessary, i.e. English as well as any local dialect. PN agreed, and was pleased to hear that the EC would take this project on with a view to ensure that within the next 6 months all websites would as an absolute minimum have clear information relating to general information, charts, procedures, if possible links to sceneries and an open general local forum in English as well as in a local language.

**ACTION: All RDs**

**6.5 Data Services Update:** PN updated RDs on the state of the Data Services Department, and noted that requested CERT updates and changes requested by RDs would be made a priority. RDs again stressed the need for changes, and are hopeful that the necessary tools are implemented in the near future.

**7. MEETING CLOSED** at 13:42 hours UTC.

**8. NEXT MEETING:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013