

MEETING OF THE VATSIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
QUARTER 2 – 2013
SATURDAY 13TH JULY 2013 2000Z
LOCATION: ONLINE (TEAMSPEAK)

PRESENT:

- Apostolos Damkalis (AD) – RD VATSIM Europe
- Alfred Tang (AT) – RD VATSIM Asia
- Daniel Abellá (DA) – RD VATSIM South America
- Amir Paz (AP) – RD VATSIM Africa Middle East
- Thomas Mathieu (TM) – DRD VATSIM Africa Middle East
- Stephan Reitingner (SR) – DRD VATSIM Europe
- Nicola Felini (NF) – RD VATSIM North America
- Mark Richards (MR, Chair) – RD VATSIM Oceania
- Kyle Ramsey (KR) – Vice President Operations

1. WELCOME

Meeting Opened at 20:15 hours.

MR welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially to Amir who was attending his first meeting in his new role as Regional Director for VATSIM Africa Middle East, Stephan as the new DRD for VATSIM Europe and Kyle Ramsey as VP Ops representing the VATSIM Board of Governors.

2. APOLOGIES

Peter Nielsen (PN) – Vice President Regions

Steven Cullen (SC) – VATSIM President

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Minutes from the previous meeting be taken as read and accepted.

Moved: DA. Seconded: AT. Motion Carried.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a. VAP UPDATE (DA)

DA briefed the new members of the EC about the VAP so that they were fully briefed. Waiting on next version of CERT, as we are 100% reliant on this to implement the VAP. The changes to the VP Web Services role has put this on hold for now so this will remain an open agenda item each meeting to track progress but it is unlikely see advancement before 2014.

b. *LANGUAGES ON DIVISION WEBSITES (ALL)*

All Region Directors advised sites now have an English version with the exception of VATSIM Mexico. NF advised that this would be addressed once the new VATSIM Mexico Division Director had been appointed. DA advised that Brazil and Uruguay had added English landing pages to their sites.

c. *DATA SERVICES UPDATE (KR)*

KR briefed the meeting that Thomas George had stepped down as VP Web Services due to work pressures. The BoG is soon to start a recruitment process for his replacement. The BoG is looking to appoint someone to “project manage” a team of developers rather than someone to do all the work themselves.

d. *GRP UPDATE ON PROCEDURAL TOWERS (MR)*

Following the BoG and Founders concerns about the 2012 amendment to the GRP relating to Procedural Towers, MR had circulated a suggested amendment. The idea of this change is to bring this section in line with the wish of the EC, BoG and Founders to remove unnecessary restrictions that are not in the current essence to make the Network more accessible by everyone. The current wording adds a level of restriction and complexity that is not in overall best interests of making the Network more available to users. While in the real world, Radar may not be available; in our online world, radar is always available.

MR reiterated VATPAC’s view on Procedural Towers. EuroScope plugins such as TAAATSmold used in Australia reflects only traffic that would be seen in the real world because it emulates radar control heads and ADS-B stations so effectively operate a procedural tower correctly without use of the scope.

MOTION: That the GRP be amended, as circulated, to remove the requirement for Tower Controllers providing ATC at a Procedural Tower undertake any specific competencies but training facilities could add these competencies to their Tower Controller training programme and assessment process.

Moved MR, Seconded DA. MOTION CARRIED.

e. *VATSIM PRC (AT)*

AT advised that VATSIM PRC (People’s Republic of China) has not yet found for a web developer for the Division Website. AT has been working with the Divisions in Asia to look to combine their efforts and merge a number of Divisions into one bigger Division but there were many language issues restricting this. AT is looking at using visiting controllers to increase ATC coverage. The EC offered its continued support to Alfred.

f. *CLOSING REAL WORLD CONTROL TOWERS (NF)*

NF advised that as the real world FAA had put this on hold indefinitely, VATUSA was doing the same. Matter closed.

g. *OVERLAND FSS IN AFRICA (AP)*

AP briefed the meeting on some developments with the African divisions that he and TM were working through with the Divisional Staff. The overland FSS is on hold until these issues have been

finalised.

5. BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT (KR)

KR presented the report on behalf of PN. Three significant BoG positions remain open –Web Services, Development and Marketing. The BoG is looking for people who are trustworthy and not just able to provide technical input but someone who can ‘project manage’ teams in these roles. The past process of appointing a “doer” instead of a manager is no longer appropriate given the level of work needed in the roles. There have been a number of applications for VP Marketing but most didn’t bring professional marketing experience to the table to meet the current expectations on this role.

KR extended an invitation to the EC to attend a W14 planning meeting on 18 July 2013.

Division and vACC local rules – need to talk about the issues and get a list of rules that need to be updated in CoR or CoC. It was the unanimous feeling of the meeting that no amendments to the existing CoR were needed as the Regional Directors can adequately address these within the CoR. The actual context of some of the concerns raised were not immediately evident to the EC members as RDs and DRDs had audited all local Division and vACC/ARTCC local rules to ensure that they complied with the CoR. AP advised that he and TM were still working through VATAME.

Naming conventions raised VATxxx applied to vACC and ARTCC and should be reserved for Divisions. TO BE DISCUSSED BY EMAIL.

The BoG are thrilled to see the work in pushing the Pilot Training Programme that Pan and his team are doing and for the support from the EC. Kyle will complete a data poll to ensure that pilot awards can be issued. NF raised concerns that in some cases, ARTCCs had been able to establish ATO status by one of two members when efforts should also be spent in other areas.

The BoG raised concerns about Region Reports not being posted by the time of the meeting. AT suggested producing them twice a year. Discussion was held. MR said that the burden shouldn’t be much for Division Directors to provide a report four times a year. If there are issues in getting the reports completed in time, RDs should post an update in the EC Email list.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. *COMBINED EC/BOG MEETING (MR)*

MR outlined some confusion in the wording of the last EC minutes. There was not reluctance by the BoG to hold a combined meeting but more so to ensure that the meeting had proper structure and meaning. It was agreed that the EC and BoG are working well together and that a combined meeting would ensure that we could make sure we supported one another and were heading in the same direction.

Due to the unavailability of some members next Saturday, it was agreed to postpone the meeting until mid-August.

ACTION: MR to post the adjournment in the EC/BoG Forum

b. *VATSIM WEST ASIA OVERLAND FSS PROPOSAL (AT)*

AT had distributed a proposal for an overland FSS. This will be discussed further by email and amended in the GRP as necessary once that discussion had concluded.

c. *VIRTUAL MEETINGS (AP)*

AP informed the meeting that in order to improve the online presence of the Division and Region staff, they were trialling a new system for Division meetings. The meetings would be “virtually hosted” in one location and then all staff attending the meeting would fly there online and then have the meeting. MR congratulated AP on this initiative, as online presence was essential for all staff.

d. *OTHER BUSINESS (ALL)*

e. *INACTIVE DIVISIONS:*

Motion: To move into Executive Session.

Moved: NF. Seconded: MR. All FOR. Motion carried.

Motion: To move out of Executive Session.

Moved: MR. Seconded: NF. All FOR. Motion carried.

f. *VATASIA OPEN SKY POLICY (AT)*

AT advised that in order to increase ATC coverage they are operating an Open Sky policy so that any controllers from the Region and Visiting Controllers can control anywhere in the Region. AT to forward the plan to the rest of the EC.

ACTION: AT to Email the VATASIA Open Skies Policy to the EC Email List

g. *VATAME (TM)*

TM advised the meeting that he and AP had spent many hours since AP’s appointment getting the Region Website up to date. They are shortly opening a new forum for the Region to assist members contacting the Region. They now have DCRMs in all Divisions and a re-established RCRP.

MR acknowledged excellent work that AP has done in VATAME since his appointment just two months ago and how well VATAME was tracking. MR asked KR to report this back to the BoG and Founders as well.

Motion to close the meeting.

Moved: MR. Seconded: NF. 2218Z.