

**Press release on ICAO 4th Ionospheric Study Task Force (ISTF/4) and 26th Interoperability Working group held at New Delhi from 5-7 February 2014.**

After the recent landmark achievement of certification of Indian SBAS System GAGAN for RNP 0.1 operations, India is hosting two back to back high-level technical meetings i.e. 4th Ionospheric Study Task Force (ISTF/4) under the aegis of ICAO and the 26th Interoperability Working group in New Delhi , providing further impetus to harmonized development of Satellite Based Navigation systems across the world.

ICAO ISTF has been tasked with the objective of collecting data, studying and developing Region-specific ionospheric models for implementation of Satellite Based Augmented Systems in Asia Pacific Region. As Asia Pacific Region comprises states that lie in equatorial ionospheric region and are affected by ionospheric scintillations which may result in loss of GNSS signal, developing an appropriate algorithm to mitigate them has become necessary.

The inter-operability Working Group is the forum for SBAS Service Providers, set up with the objective of harmonizing the global SBAS systems and ensuring seamless navigation with inter-operable systems.

Mr V.Somasundaram, Board Member of AAI for Air Navigation Services , welcoming the delegates of both the meetings, emphasized the need for a collaborative approach among all the States, ANSPs and SBAS providers for finding a common solution to mitigate the Ionospheric Effects and work towards Harmonizing SBAS Standards and Systems leading to Global Harmonization.

**Mr Frederick Lecat ,Regional Officer,ICAO and Mr Dean Bunce, FAA, WAAS Program manager , delivered their technical address .The officials thanked India for supporting the ICAO initiatives on SBAS and congratulated India on becoming the 4<sup>th</sup> certified SBAS developer in the world.**

**Mr A.S. Ganeshan, Outstanding Scientist, ISRO elaborated on GAGAN development leading to the certification for RNP 0.1 operations and the upcoming IRNSS which is set to become operational by 2015. IRNSS is an Independent Regional Navigation Satellite System being developed by India indigenously and in conjunction with GAGAN would provide accurate position information service to users in India.**

**Mr Ashok Lavasa , Secretary Civil Aviation , delivering the keynote address, appreciated the Indian ANS initiatives leading to safety and efficiency of aircraft operations and remarked that the huge 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year outlay for Aviation Industry would foster the Aviation Growth in the country. The Secretary also sought the attention of the participating States to the need for close collaboration among the States in finding solution to the complex Ionospheric issues and called for taking up all the required steps in ensuring interoperability of various SBAS systems across the world for seamless navigation.**

**India's much-needed initiative in hosting both the meetings at the same venue brings together the prospective SBAS providers and the Asia Pacific States of on a single platform to support, research and develop reliable and interoperable SBAS systems leading to seamless satellite navigation regardless of boundaries.**