

SUMMARY OF VDR DISCUSSION

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Introduction

The objective of this document is to summarize the VDR discussion that took place during the 2nd CAATS workshop (Lanzarote on 16/02/06). The objective of this discussion was to give the opportunity to potential VDR users to express their opinion regarding the utility of the structure and content of the current version of VDR. Before the commencement of the discussion the audience had the opportunity to be informed about: i) the results of a VDR use survey, ii) the current status and potential future plans for the development and use of VDR, and iii) the development of electronic VDR templates. In what follows I provide an overview of the issues raised during the discussion and some early conclusions regarding the perception of the audience about the use of VDR.

VDR use issues

The discussion about VDR was focused on the following three major issues: i) VDR awareness, ii) VDR utility, and iii) VDR use.

VDR awareness

At the outset should be stressed out that the overwhelming majority of the audience (mostly people involved in Air Transport R&D Validation activities) were not users of VDR. Furthermore, only five out of the fifty participants had participated in the VDR survey. The above figures suggest that VDR has failed to become known and raise the interest of an important part of the Air Transport R&D validation community. **Clearly, VDR developers and promoters should re-examine their promotion and dissemination strategy of VDR.**

VDR utility

Although the participants recognized the need for having a central repository of information regarding ATM validation activities, it was not clear to them what was the added value of VDR and its cost-effectiveness in covering validation information retrieval and knowledge management needs. The audience was rather inclined to a solution that will not overburden its potential users with the extraction of the needed information from existing (validation deliverables of ATM R&D projects) documents. Furthermore, the audience was a bit skeptical on the ability of VDR to provide to them customized information.

It is apparent that potential VDR users are looking for a simpler solution that will require minimum effort , on their behalf, to contribute to and retrieve information from the repository, e.g. probably the submission of an existing document with a well structured abstract and key words.

VDR use

The audience was not aware about the terms and conditions associated with the use of VDR, furthermore its current mode of accessibility, e.g. not open to internet searching machines, presents serious limitations in accessing and using VDR. Another issue that was raised by the audience was the need to closer associate VDR with E-OCVM .

It is expected that the use of VDR will be enhanced if its accessibility will be improved and the terms and conditions of its use become clear to its potential users.