

**International Loran Association**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Technical Symposium**  
**October 11-15, 1998, Danvers, Massachusetts, USA**

**Press Release**

October 21, 1998

For Immediate Release...

**Loran-C Revitalization Addressed at International Conference**

Buoyed by the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) decision to continue the Loran-C service, participants at the International Loran Association's annual Convention and Technical Symposium focused on rebuilding the loran infrastructure in the United States and expanding loran with the Eurofix augmentation internationally. In his prepared remarks, Rear Admiral James D. Hull, U.S. Coast Guard and the senior representative from the DOT, was unable to make the long awaited formal announcement of the change in loran policy. It was learned that following the DOT's and the Department of Commerce's approval, the decision, together with the Congressional-mandated report on Loran-C, had been passed to the Office of Management and Budget for review.

Keynote speaker, former FAA Administrator Langhorne Bond, stressed the on-going need for a mix of satellite and terrestrial systems stating that the known vulnerabilities of satellite systems precluded total dependence on these services. "Sole means GPS is a dead issue, back up systems are required and Loran-C is an inexpensive and proven candidate for all modes of transportation," he said.

In a luncheon speech, John Kern, VP for Regulatory Compliance and Chief Safety Officer for Northwest Airlines reviewed radionavigation needs for aviation. Addressing the avionics carried by Northwest he said: "At present, Northwest has no GPS equipment installed, and, while we look forward to the use of GPS we need to identify the cost benefits of equipage and obtain a clearer definition of what the next generation of equipment will be."

Addressing the Banquet audience, Phil Boyer, President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, confirmed the membership needs for the continuation of the Loran-C service and for a mix of systems in the future. The shortage of student pilots was the main theme of his speech citing the decline in new GA aircraft as a major contributing factor. Mr. Boyer described the promotional campaign to enlist new students, which AOPA believed in the long run would ease the critical shortage of airline pilots.

Conforming with the Congressional mandate to upgrade the Loran-C transmitting facilities, representatives of the United States Coast Guard described the various projects currently under way in particular, those concerning aviation and timing requirements.

Further upgrade plans were revealed with the cautionary note that the FY 1999 DOT Appropriations Bill for funding this work was still in Conference with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

The GPS/GLONASS wide area augmentation system using Loran-C transmitters to communicate GPS/GLONASS differential corrections was the subject of several presentations and a workshop. Called Eurofix, when fully deployed the system is projected to provide a position accuracy of less than 5 meters throughout all of Europe. Results of tests conducted by the United States Coast Guard in the United States and presented at the meeting confirmed the European findings.

The meeting ended with the adoption of a RESOLUTION reaffirming the Associations determination to use all means necessary to assure a global mix of terrestrial and spaceborne systems for Positioning, Navigation and Timing for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The newly elected President, Dr. G. Linn Roth of LOCUS, Inc. closed the Convention on an upbeat note with participants looking forward to the next Convention which will be held near Paris, France during October of 1999.

The International Loran Association, formerly the Wild Goose Association, draws its membership from manufacturers, users, governments, national and international organizations and academia who adhere to a policy of maintaining a mix of terrestrial and satellite radionavigation services. The Association firmly believes that Loran-C should be part of the mix and is an advocate for the continued provision and expansion of the system and its augmentations.

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