

AFTN PC

The AFTN PC is a tool which supports message generation, administration and exchange in AFTN format at AFTN end-user working positions.

As one of the leaders in the specialised field of advanced communication systems for Air Traffic Control, Avitech has designed and installed ATC message switches around the world. In the course of this work it has become clear that AFTN end-users have a need for an intelligent support tool to facilitate and check the generation, transmission and administration of AFTN messages.

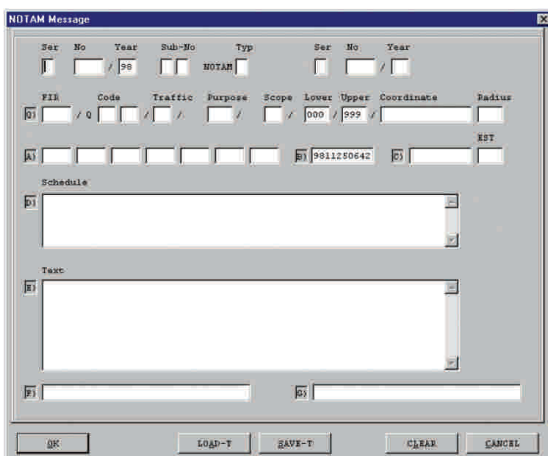
Avitech has met this demand and developed a working position for AFTN users that generates messages in conformance with ICAO standards and reflects the requirements of a core user group from a number of countries. The functionality of the AFTN PC is being continuously improved and the range of available templates extended as the requirements of further users are captured.

Application

The Avitech AFTN PC supports the AFTN end-user in generating AFTN messages:

- automatic insertion of standard information (sender address, filing time etc.) during message generation

- administration of locally available AFTN messages: archive, retrieve (received as well as transmitted)
- templates for standard messages (FPL related, NOTAM, SNOWTAM)
- input checking during message compilation for completeness, consistency, validity and the correct format
- message size monitoring according to ICAO, providing alarms and transmission rejection in the event of message length violation
- auto wrap at the last space before 69 characters in a line
- long term retention (archival) of messages (up to 100 days)
- monitoring of connectivity and transmission
- signalling of received messages; SS messages signalled with an acoustic alarm in addition
- on-line printout of messages (received and transmitted)
- automatic generation of an SS message confirmation upon operator acknowledgement of the priority alert.



Concept

The AFTN PC provides a Windows based graphical user interface in which the application formats are embedded. The user can use standard Windows clipboard functions (cut, copy, paste, delete etc.) to generate new messages from his own previous messages or from received ones.

Compilation of messages is supported by templates and menu prompts. Wherever possible automatic input checks are performed (value, syntax etc.). An on-line help function is provided in the case of problems.

The message reception functionality is always available in parallel with any other user activity that may be being performed. The arrival of a new message is indicated.

Advantages

By using the Avitech AFTN PC the user is sure that messages generated conform to ICAO Annex 10 and will be forwarded by the system and not rejected due to formal errors.

System-guided user entry means that the operator is able to concentrate on the content of the message itself rather than with the mechanics of inputting the information in the right location.

Stored messages make for easy and rapid compilation/modification of cyclic messages.

Message storage for up to 100 days enables rapid tracing and retrieval of both transmitted and received messages.

Special templates are available to generate flight plan and related (follow-on) messages.

Templates to generate NOTAM's and SNOWTAM's together with menu prompts guarantee acceptance of those messages by the NOTAM Office.

Technical characteristics

Platform:
32 bit Wintel architectures running Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000, NT or XP
Installation Requirements:
CPU ≥ Pentium II
Main memory ≥ 64 MB
Monitor ≥ 17" (1024 x 768 resolution recommended)
Interfaces available:
serial asynch.
X.29 over PAD
X.25 (EICON)
TCP/IP permanent or switched
Mode: MTP
Code: IA5

Delivery

The AFTN PC software is designed for easy installation by the customer himself. It is delivered on a CD-ROM together with an installation guide.

Future Development

The Avitech AFTN PC is being continuously updated to implement new requirements as they arise. Customer specific developments can also be carried out on request.

The AFTN PC is a further support tool which extends the functionality and scope of Avitech's communications product palette.

