

# ARINC Project Initiation/Modification (APIM)

## 1. Name of Proposed Project

APIM 09-009D

### AEEC Electronic Flight Bag Users Forum (EFB UF)

**Note: This is an update to APIM 09-009 which initiated the EFB Users Forum.**

## 2. Suggested Subcommittee Assignment (who acts)

### 2.1 Identify AEEC group

This APIM proposes the continuation of the **EFB Users Forum** activity for three years, i.e., through December **2023**. The activity is a joint activity with IATA EFB Task Force.

### 2.2. Support for the activity (all to be confirmed)

Airlines: Air France, Alaska, American, ANA, Austrian, Delta, FedEx, Hawaiian, Icelandair, JAL, Lufthansa, Swiss, TAP, Southwest, United, UPS and others.

Airframe Manufacturers: Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier, Embraer

Suppliers: APiJet, ASG, Astronautics, Astronics, Avio, Avionica, Bad Elf, CarlisleIT, CMC Electronics, Cobham, Collins Aerospace, Comply365, GE Aviation, Global Eagle Entertainment, GoGo, Honeywell, Inmarsat, Jeppesen, Lufthansa Systems, Microsoft, NavBlue, Pace, Pivot, Sabre, SITA, Teledyne, Thales, Ultramain, and others.

### 2.3. Commitment for resources (directly from participant) (all to be confirmed)

Chairmen: Philipp Haller (Austrian) and Will Ware (Southwest)

Airlines: Air France, Alaska, American, Austrian, Delta, FedEx, Hawaiian, Lufthansa, Southwest, United, UPS, and others.

Airframe Manufacturers: Airbus and Boeing

Suppliers: APiJet, ASG, Astronautics, Avio, Avionica, Bad Elf, CarlisleIT, CMC Electronics, Cobham, Collins Aerospace, GE Aviation, Gogo, Honeywell, Inmarsat, Jeppesen, Lufthansa Systems, Microsoft, Pace, Pivot, SITA, Teledyne, Thales, Ultramain, Viasat, and others.

### 2.4. Recommended Coordination with other groups

The following activities and standards are relevant to this topic:

- ADB (ARINC 814, 816)
- AOC (ARINC 633)
- ANFS (ARINC 763, 821, 822)
- EFB (ARINC **679**, 759, 828, 834, 840)
- NIS Subcommittee
- SAI Subcommittee

### **3. Project Scope**

#### **3.1 Description**

This activity provides a unified forum for airlines, EFB system integrators, EFB hardware providers, EFB application providers, regulatory authorities, and other interested parties to present, discuss and find solutions to issues of interest to the EFB user community. This includes but is not limited to EFB topics as follows:

- Aircraft installation issues
- Application software
- Communication interfaces (e.g., media, provider, connectivity)
- Cyber security
- Data input devices, terminals, displays, interactive devices
- Electrical interfaces, including power
- Operational issues
- Regulatory issues

It should be noted that the EFB User Forum activity is not intended to create any new standard. Should such a desire arise during an EFB Users Forum meeting it would be forwarded to the AEEC Executive Committee.

The joint AEEC/IATA EFB Users Forum involves regulatory authorities in the Americas and Europe, as well other local regulatory bodies and ICAO. These regulators have attended past meetings and are seeking feedback and input from the EFB Users Forum regarding proposed changes and future regulation.

#### **3.2. Planned usage of the envisioned specification**

(Not Applicable)

#### **3.3. Issues to be worked**

The main issues are:

- Provide a forum where EFB system integrators and EFB hardware/software providers can present their product development plans with airline users
- Provide a venue for regulators to present and discuss pending regulatory changes and their impact on airline operators.
- Provide a forum for airlines to share current EFB experiences along with future expectations
- Enable the industry to identify common EFB services that need to be supported over the aircraft interfaces
- Identify any new avionics parameters which are useful for EFBs and the need for data structures to support the avionics interfaces
- Provide a forum for IT services providers to describe their efforts in this area. Ensure one or more methods are available to enable the EFBs to access wired and/or wireless air/ground links, onboard servers and to internet services in

general.

- Others (TBI)

## **4. Benefits envisioned**

### **4.1. Basic benefits**

Modeled after the Data Link Users Forum, the EFB Users Forum attracts users, regulators and suppliers in a neutral industry setting.

The activity identifies industry trends both operationally and technically. The overall goal is to exchange information and experience and to find standardized methods to resolve issues early and improve EFB services - for the benefit of all.

The rapidly evolving EFB market benefits from this platform and helps deal with key issues:

- Support Operational enhancements (reduction in DOC)
- Clarify in-service issues
- Support Interchangeability of EFB applications
- Identify potential improvements to existing interface and protocol standards as well as opportunities for new standards development
- Inform and discuss products offered from suppliers (competitive environment)
- Support hardware and software development as open market items

### **4.2 Specific project benefits**

Extension of this activity is proposed in recognition of the ability for EFBs to meet a wide-variety of airline operational needs and to provide a neutral forum to discuss these needs. Airlines are moving quickly to install EFBs, many that are extensible to include all types of flight deck operations and data communications functions.

A properly executed effort will allow airlines and suppliers to be on the same page, reduce risk and provide the desired products to the marketplace.

### **4.3 Project Benefit for Airlines**

- Enable airlines to influence EFB product evolution to suit their operational needs, leading to greater commonality across fleets.
- Provide a venue for airlines to have input in forming regulations that govern EFB usage.
- Common processes for EFB including software handling.
- Ensure flexibility when updating EFB, selecting and installing EFB products in a way that fits airline operations.
- Cost reduction in airline EFB programs.

### **4.4 Project Benefit for Airframe Manufacturers**

Airframe manufacturers will benefit from being able to offer new aircraft models with EFBs and EFB provisions that meet the broadest needs of their customers.

Airframe manufacturers can continue to offer installed EFBs **as well as provisioning for portable electronic devices such as tablets.**

Airframe manufacturers can rely on EFB **hardware and software** suppliers and choose not to develop EFBs themselves.

#### 4.5 Project Benefit for EFB Suppliers

Opens market opportunities for EFB suppliers to provide desired **hardware and software**

Will simplify supplier effort to equip different aircraft models

Easier to certify and to get operational approval due to commonality and familiarity

#### 5. Documents to be Produced and Date of Expected Result

- Reports will be provided for each meeting.
- APIMs may be developed where the need arises.

#### 5.1 Meetings/Expected Document Completion

The EFB Users Forum is expected to convene **at least** once per year in the May or June timeframe. Beyond this schedule, meetings may be organized on an as-needed basis as the EFB Leadership Team and the AEEC Executive Committee deems appropriate.

Meeting Days	2020	2021	2022	2023
EFB Users Forum	2 (+2)	2 (+2)	2 (+2)	2 (+2)

#### 6.0 Comments

(None)

#### 6.1 Expiration date for this APIM

December **2023**

*Completed forms should be submitted to the AEEC Executive Secretary and Program Director, Paul J. Prisaznuk (pjp@sae-itc.org)*