



Version History

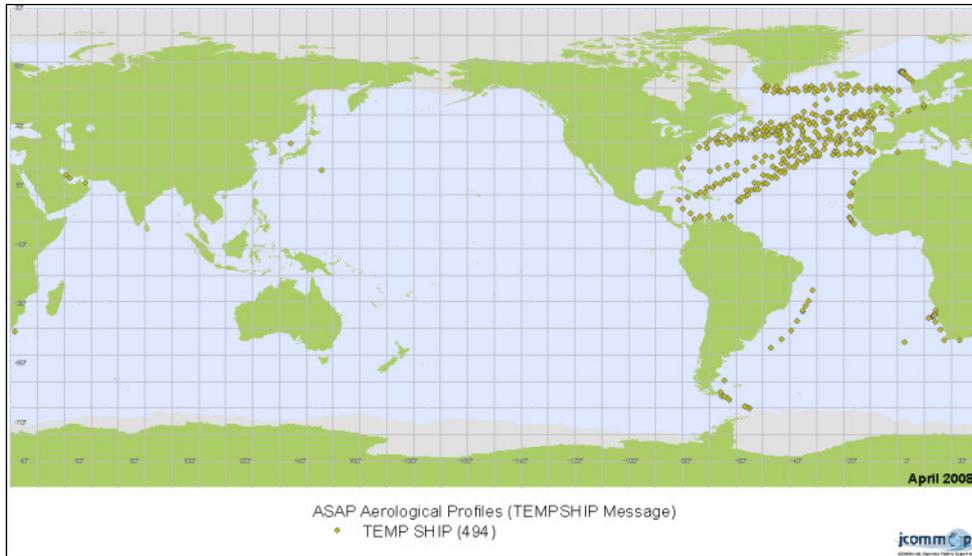
Version	Released	Updated by
1	2003	Steve Cook, Chair of SOOPIP
2	May 2005	Steve Cook, Chair of SOOPIP
3	June 2008	Graeme Ball, Chair of SOT, for the SOT Task Team on VRPP
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Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme

- Atmospheric profiles of temperature, humidity & wind from balloon-borne radiosondes.
- Observations are usually made every 12 hrs and sent free-of-charge from ship to shore. The reports are distributed globally for use by all National Meteorological Services.
- The main programme involves 18 ships in the North Atlantic Ocean & Mediterranean and is operated by EUMETNET. Other countries, e.g. Japan & South Africa, plus some Navy vessels operate occasional programmes.

Real-time TEMP SHIP Messages



ASAP System



ASAP Container



Helium Gas Storage

Button links to movie showing a radiosonde release

Radiosonde Sounding

- Each sounding requires ~ 30 minutes of crew time, and includes:
 - Checking the satellite communications.
 - Initialising the radiosonde.
 - Filling the balloon with helium & attaching the radiosonde.
 - Launching the balloon.
 - Completing the operator's log.
 - Observing the sounding to a height of at least 1 km.

- Data logging to 20 hPa (~ 25 km) and message preparation & transmission is automatic.