



Aero Club of South Africa

National federation for Sport and Recreational Aviation

TEL/FAX : 0861 018 018, EMAIL: info@aeroclub.org.za INTERNET: <http://www.aeroclub.org.za>

Date 12 April 2006

Dear Aero Club of South Africa member,

GENERAL RELEASE – FITMENT OF TRANSPONDERS

Summary

The Airlines are concerned that they cannot “see” possible conflicting General Aviation traffic at certain airports. ATNS feel that they cannot provide a 100% safe service due to shortcomings in the current radar installations, or the lack thereof, at these airports. Both are of the view that the fitment of Transponders to everything airborne will solve the above problem.

Background

The GA industry in general and the Aero Club in particular, do not share the opinion that this simple solution will be effective. ATNS needs to make a go/no-go decision in June 2006 to install Primary (passive) Radar at Bloemfontein and George at a cost of about R 60 million. The Airlines do not want this as it may be inadequate technology for which they will end up paying.

At a meeting on the 12th April, with all parties present, these issues were discussed. The Commissioner, as chair of the meeting, took a very responsible position and was not convinced that the tabled solutions were the best way forward.

The Current Situation

The parties, including GA, have been given a last attempt opportunity to resolve this situation. To this end the Aero Club, together with its sections, will investigate the quantum of the effect and make recommendations to the Commissioner.

What is important to note is the recognition given to the Aero Club, including its sections, to assist in finding solutions and the first hand involvement of the press in this delicate situation.

We will call on various groups and individuals during the following few weeks to assist in developing a strategy and I appeal to all to assist wherever appropriate.

I will keep you posted on developments.

Neil de Lange

GENERAL MANAGER