

PASS Liaison / Representative Update

Date of Update: October 22, 2020

Program Name: NextGen

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Program Overview:

The PASS NextGen representative supports PASS primarily within ANG-C, the office of NextGen Portfolio Management and Technology Development. This office provides a conduit between NextGen and the Operations community to ensure NextGen implementation efforts are harmonized with operations and risks are addressed collaboratively to facilitate delivery of NextGen capabilities.

Within the several divisions under ANG-C, PASS is primarily involved with the Technology Development and Prototyping Division, ANG-C5, and the NAS Lifecycle and Planning Division, ANG-C7. ANG-C5 involves field-level prototyping of certain systems and concepts, including Remote Tower Services; ANG-C7 maintains the NextGen “portfolios”. These portfolios serve as the funding mechanism for incoming NextGen initiatives while they are still in the pre-implementation stage within the NextGen office. When these initiatives are adequately developed, the process moves to the respective AJW Program Office for implementation. The ANG-C organizational chart is appended to the end of this document. The NextGen portfolio overview is available as a separate document in the A13/SME section of the PASS member site.

In addition to support internal to ANG-C, the PASS NextGen Rep works closely with other Article 13 reps within the NextGen domain. This includes such programs as ERAM, DataComm, ADS-B, NextGen Weather products, STARS, SWIM, and the “Three Ts:” (TBFM, TFDM, TFMS). Direct discussions between the NextGen and program reps are frequent and ongoing. The reps also meet regularly as a group to discuss program and implementation status, and to address unique or overlapping issues of PASS concern.

Implementation of NextGen to date has been largely accomplished via the installation and integration of updated automation systems ERAM and TAMR/STARS. These automation platforms provide the foundation upon which the rest of the NextGen improvements are built. While constituting separate programs, TBFM, TFMS, DataComm, ADS-B and others are dependent on or delivered through these automation systems. These systems are managed within the ATO Program Management Organization (PMO). NextGen continues to research and deliver new capabilities, refinements and improvements to these existing systems.

Current Program Status:

10-2020: Activities within ANG-C continue at a steady pace in spite of the Covid-19 situation. The office has quite successfully transitioned to Zoom-style meetings. The funds disbursements and portfolio timelines remain on track with only minimal disruption. Any timeline slippage at the ANG level would have minimal impact on the PASS bargaining unit.

Issues Affecting PASS: The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 mandates the establishment of a Chief Technology Officer (CTO). This office will fall within the ATO organization. It is envisioned many of the technology deliverables within the NextGen office will be transferred over to the CTO. When this transition occurs, PASS will require Article 13 Representation within the Chief Technology Office. PASS has not yet received an Article 70 briefing on the CTO structure and transition plan.

Program Issues: Remote Tower Services (RTS) testing timelines have been delayed due to Covid-19.

Identify Support Needs: Remote Tower representation currently falls within the scope of the NextGen Rep. When RTS activities and sites expand beyond the current locations, PASS may need site-specific Article 13 representation in addition to an overarching RTS rep.