



# BEA

Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses  
pour la sécurité de l'aviation civile

## Flight Data Recovery and Triggered Transmission

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# Flight Data Recovery over Water

- BEA launched in August 2009 an international working group in the framework of AF447 investigation
- Evaluate new technology to safeguard flight data and/or to facilitate the localization and recovery of on-board recorders
  - Flight data transmission
  - New flight recorder technology
  - Wreckage localization technology
- Analyze technical feasibility as well as cost of various solutions

# Flight Data Recovery WG

100 members from 50 organisations

60 participants

attending the meetings

**Manufacturers**  
**Airlines**  
**Associations**  
**Service providers**

Airbus, Boeing,  
 Astrium, Iridium, Inmarsat,  
 Star System, Flyht, SITA,  
 L3Com, Honeywell, GE, DRS,  
 EADS,  
 Dukane, Benthos,  
 ARINC, SESAR  
 ACSA, IXwaves  
 Air France, Fedex,  
 IATA, IFALPA

**Investigation  
 Authorities**



**Civil Aviation Authorities**



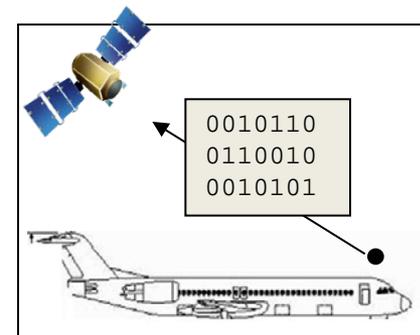
- Analysis of past events over water including AF447
- 38 identified events between 1996 and 2014
- 8 recorders not found
  
- Solution evaluation based on:
  - ➔ Technical feasibility: maturity & equipment
  - ➔ Cost: per aircraft & per ground station
  - ➔ Benefit: applicability to past events

# Flight Data Recovery Conclusions



- Extended duration of transmissions by the flight recorder's ULB (90 days instead of 30 days)
- Installation of low frequency ULBs (8.8 kHz)
  - ➔ Standards included in the ICAO Annex 6

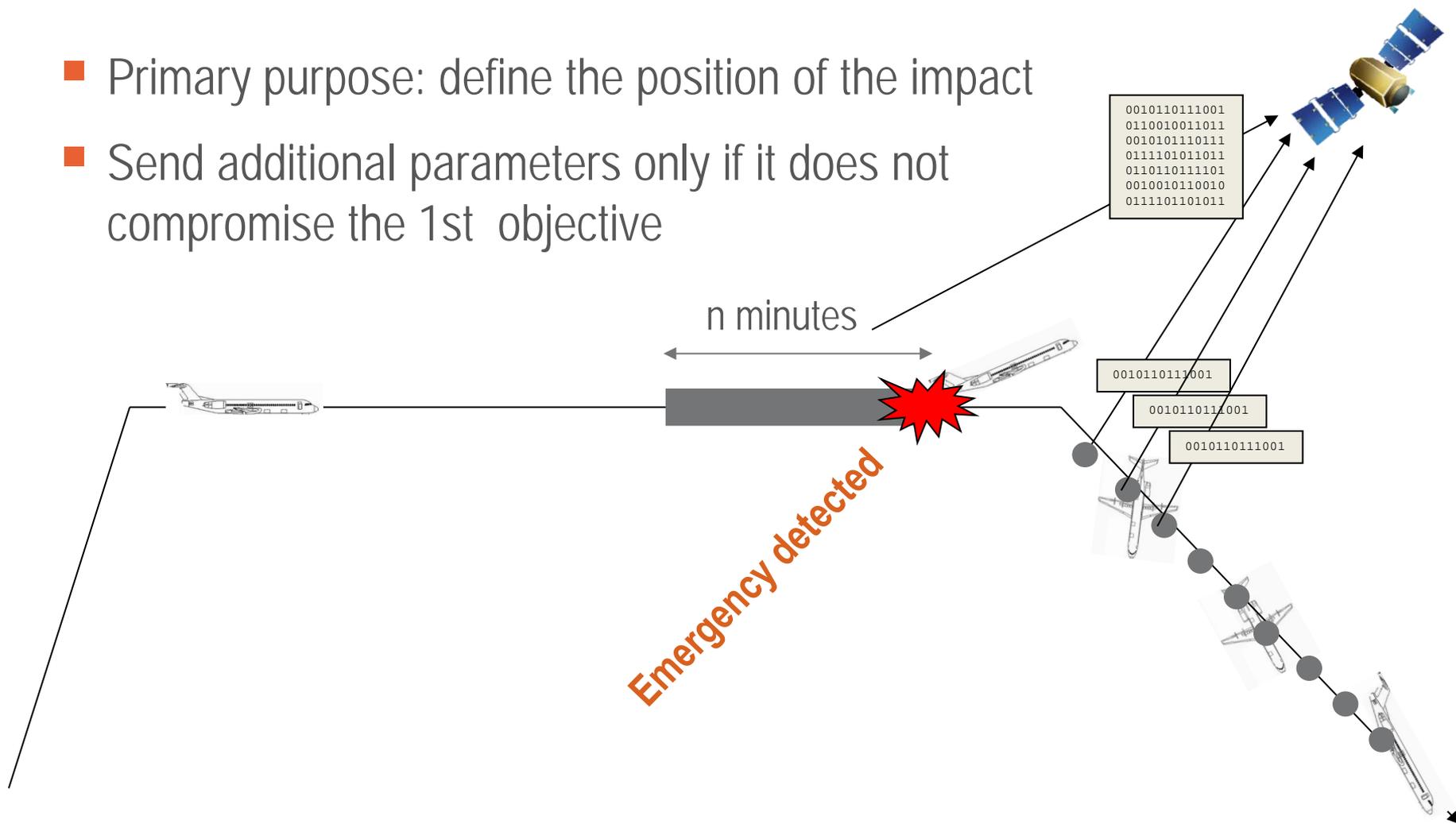
- Regular transmission of basic aircraft parameters
- Triggered transmission of flight data. On this point, additional work was deemed necessary and the BEA launched a new international working group



- Installation of ED-112A deployable recorders
  - ➔ ICAO FLIRECP proposed amendments to Annex 6

# Triggered Transmission Concept

- Primary purpose: define the position of the impact
- Send additional parameters only if it does not compromise the 1st objective



# Triggered Transmission Objectives

- Are there triggering criteria that meet the 2 following conditions:
  - ➔ Is the probability of detection of an upcoming catastrophic event at a maximum?
  - ➔ Is the probability of a nuisance-triggered transmission reduced to a minimum?
- Are satellite connection and transmission times compatible with the warning time provided by the emergency situation detection criteria?
- Does satellite antenna technology allow for continuous transmission, even for aircraft in unusual attitudes with high pitch and roll rates?
  
- Database of flight data from accidents and normal flights
- Connectivity with Inmarsat and Iridium constellations

# Triggered Transmission Conclusions

- Robust emergency detection criteria are achievable
- The WG concludes that it is technically feasible to significantly reduce the search area for wreckage by:
  - ➔ Triggering transmission of appropriate data via SatCom prior to impact, and/or
  - ➔ Automatically activating next generation ELTs prior to impact, and/or
  - ➔ Increasing the frequency of position reports.
- ➔ The joint EUROCAE WG-98 / RTCA SC-229 is developing specifications for triggering criteria and second generation ELTs
- ➔ ICAO FLIRECP proposed amendments to Annex 6 regarding Distress System based on triggered transmission

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## Technical document

### Triggered Transmission of Flight Data Working Group Report

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<http://www.bea.aero/en/enquetes/flight.af.447/flight.data.recovery.working.group.final.report.pdf>

<http://www.bea.aero/en/enquetes/flight.af.447/triggered.transmission.of.flight.data.pdf>

## Technical document

### Flight Data Recovery Working Group Report

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Thank you for your attention