

Budget set for managing LRIT

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INTERNATIONAL Maritime Satellite Organisation secretary-general of the Esteban Pacha has confirmed that the budget for its role as long-range identification and tracking of ships co-ordinator has been approved, though it is not yet fully funded, writes Neville Smith.

The budget of \$750,000 will be met in both cash and kind, Mr Pacha said, through the donation of time and resources to his office.

“We have budget approval, now we just have to work out how to fund it,” he said.

IMSO will at least double in size in order to play the central co-ordination role.

Mr Pacha added his voice to those warning that decisive agreement on the structure of the LRIT system was needed by the end of the session so that he could take the recommendations to the IMSO general assembly in September.

There was still a need to clarify the scope of the functions of the co-ordinator and Mr Pacha added that IMSO was concerned that the LRIT system was “cost-effective and operationally efficient” for all Solas-contracting governments.

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