

**4th IHO-HSSC Meeting
Taunton, UK, 25-28 September 2012**

Paper for Consideration by HSSC

Assessing the adequacy of the IHO Technical Capacity

Submitted by:	IHB
Executive Summary:	This paper invites HSSC to identify the critical areas of the technical programme of the IHO where current resources might be inadequate and investigate alternatives to address shortcomings if any within the existing budget.
Related Documents:	XVIII th IHC paper CONF.18/REP/01 - <i>Proposed IHO Five-year Work Programme 2013-2017</i> (approved by Decision 18 of the XVIII th IHC) XVIII th IHC paper CONF.18/WP.1/Add.2 - <i>Implementation of the Strategic Plan</i>

Introduction / Background

1. As a result of a Proposal submitted by UK and supported by HSSC, decision 6 of the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference (IHC), held in April 2012, requested that: ... *the Directing Committee, in consultation with HSSC, develop proposals to ensure that there is appropriate technical capacity within the Bureau to support the Organization through a period of significant change resulting from the transition to digital navigation and, where these can be met within the existing budget, encourage them to be acted on, and to report back to the 5th EIHC.*

Discussion

2. As expressed in its comments to the XVIIIth IHC, the Directing Committee is committed to identifying any additional resources or expertise considered necessary to meet new or changing obligations and requirements. In this context, the Directing Committee seeks the input of the HSSC in helping to identify any emerging requirements or existing shortfalls that could exceed the current resources. The Directing Committee also seeks input on ways that any additional resources that might be required could be secured within the approved IHO budget.

3. In this context, a review of the critical areas of the 2013-2017 Work Programme No. 2 where current resources might be inadequate both in quantitative and qualitative terms, both within IHB and through MS or industry support, would be beneficial. Such a review should consider, but is not limited to:

- the ongoing management and maintenance of the S-100 registry
- technical support and liaison to future S-100 users, especially non Member States
- the provision of advanced internet, database and web mapping services, including data protection and authentication
- technical research and investigation related to ENC and ECDIS implementation and evolution
- the support of developments related to the hydrographic component of Spatial Data Infrastructures.

Proposal

4. The HSSC in consultation with its subordinate bodies may wish to consider reviewing the established technical work programme to identify the critical areas where current resources may be inadequate to implement

each significant task. This would follow-on from the process established in 2011 of submitting task identification forms as inputs to the drafting of the work programme. The results could then be analysed and options developed to ensure that the appropriate resources are made available to meet the identified requirements.

Action Required of HSSC

5. The HSSC is invited to:
 - a. **note** this report,
 - b. **initiate a review** of critical areas of the technical programme of the IHO where current resources may be inadequate to fulfil the associated tasks,
 - c. **initiate an investigation** of alternatives to address shortcomings if any, and
 - d. **take any other action** as considered necessary.