Status for the Norwegian Bathymetric Database - NMDB

The Norwegian Hydrographic Service awarded in 2008 a contract to the Dutch company Atlis B.V. for the delivery of a new management and distribution system for high resolution depth data, called the Norwegian Bathymetric Database (NMDB). The work is a part of the NHS' commitment to the MAREANO programme, and the database will be the management system for the official and authoritative depth data in Norwegian waters.

The solution is based on Atlis' QARTO product suite, and adapted to The Norwegian Hydrographic Service's specifications. The work is now in its final phase, and the system is to be implemented by the end of 2010.

The NMDB will have three main functional parts: Data assembly, data management and data distribution.

The data assembly consists of constructing digital terrain models based on quality assured survey data. The system includes adapted functionality for the construction and visualisation of terrain models with user controlled parameters. Emphasis is put on the registration of standardized metadata.

The data management includes collocating the various terrain models to a seamless, continuous digital model of the seabed. The database will at first include data for the Norwegian coastal and sea areas, and the Svalbard region. In the long term the database will also include data from the areas of interest to Norway in Antarctica. The data shall be kept updated and replaced as and when data of increasingly quality is available.

The data distribution is web based and user controlled. Internal and external users shall have an overview of coverage, available product types and metadata, the opportunity to view the data through standardized interfaces, and to download data. The data will be made available as a part of the Norwegian spatial data infrastructure

Emphasis is put on use of ISO and industry standards so as to open up for later expansions and integration with other systems internally and externally.