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CIRCULAR LETTER 8/2002
20 February 2002

PRIMAR PRESS RELEASE

Reference: IHB Circular Letter 43/2001 dated 28 September 2001.

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the PRIMAR Advisory Committee was held in Copenhagen on 7-8 February 2002 to consider the best method of ENC validation and distribution by PRIMAR.

Due to the fact that the Member States of PRIMAR have different technical and financial requirements and options available to them for the validation and distribution of their ENCs, it had been apparent that the Committee would have to reconsider its administrative structures. The two operators of PRIMAR, the Norwegian Hydrographic Service (NHS) and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO), were requested by the Committee, at its meetings in Hamburg in October 2001 and in London in December 2001, to consider options that could accommodate all of these national requirements.

Both services made presentations to the Copenhagen Meeting and the Committee agreed that, while it would be better to retain a single structure, both services were now required. As a result, some of the PRIMAR States will have ENC validation, harmonization and distribution co-ordinated by the NHS and the others by the UKHO. This will be effective from 1 July 2002 and will not affect the present ENC service being provided to the mariners.

A copy of the PRIMAR "Press Release" announcing these changes is attached for your information. (Annex A).

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,


Rear Admiral Neil GUY
Director

Encl. Annex A.

PRIMAR PRESS RELEASE

As a result of the requirement to restructure PRIMAR, both the Norwegian Hydrographic Service and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office presented proposals to provide an Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) service to a meeting of the Cooperating Hydrographic Offices of PRIMAR (PRIMAR Advisory Committee). It was agreed that both proposed ENC services would be established during 2002. Both ENC services will cooperate closely in order to provide the optimum service to the mariner and the service will continue uninterrupted
