

**CIRCULAR LETTER 66/2004  
7 October 2004**

**SIGNING OF A LETTER OF INTENT  
BETWEEN THE NORWEGIAN HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE –  
UK HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE AND THE IHB**

Dear Hydrographer,

The Directing Committee informs you that on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of October, a letter of intent was signed between Dr Wynford Williams Chief Executive and National Hydrographer on behalf of the UKHO, acting as operator of the International Center for ENC's (IC-ENC), Mr Frode Klepsvik Director of the Norwegian Hydrographic Service, on behalf of the Norwegian Hydrographic Service, acting as operator of PRIMAR Stavanger and Vadm Alexandros Maratos on behalf of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

The participants recognise the importance of facilitating the development of integrated ENC end-user services to ensure the wider take up of ENC's in the market. Two of the participants are RENC operators (Primar Stavanger and IC-ENC). The third participant is the IHB, whose role is the administration of the IHO encryption scheme (defined in S-63) and the administration of the associated signature keys (Data Authentication).

The purpose of this letter of intent is for the participants to co-operate during the period of transition to a compatible implementation of S-63 among RENC's and OEMs which is expected to be completed by 01/01/2007.

During the period of this letter of intent, the IHB will operate an online signing service which signs the encrypted ENC data uploaded by Qualified Distributors with the Primar-Stavanger private key. Primar-Stavanger will provide technical and operational support to IHB to ensure it can provide a 24/7 signature service. There will be no financial cost to the IHB or effect on its work, to operate the online digital signature service.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President