

**11th CHRIS MEETING
IHB, Monaco, 16-18 November 1999**

**Letter from Frode KLEPSVIK, Norwegian Hydrographer , to the IHB
(dated 13 July 1999)**

ENC test Data Set and ECDIS Presentation Library

Dear Neil,

As we agreed upon when Jan MIKALSEN and myself visited you in Monaco on 20 April 1999, I am writing to you on behalf of the Norwegian Maritime Geodata Demonstrator (NMGD) Project about the above mentioned subjects. Albeit late, the importance and relevance of the issues requires attention from HO's as well as from IHB.

ENC Test Data Set

The NMGD Project has, as one of its primary goals for phase one, to carry out a comprehensive test of all the elements in the ECDIS "value chain", i.e. from the producer of the ENC and the equipment to the user and the approving authorities. One important element in this process is to have an ECDIS type approved. The initial plan was to have this approval by 1 May 1999, but has now been delayed until 1 October of this year. The main reason for the delay is the lack of a comprehensive test data set, which fulfils the requirements defined in IEC 61174 and also includes the protection (encryption) and authentication that will be introduced by the relevant RENC/HO.

There has been some correspondence between the NMGD Project and the UKHO on the test data set they are providing, and we believe this is a very important initiative. But, in order for the test data to be of real value, they have to be validated through the same processes and by utilising the same tools as authorised ENC's (which is the fuel of an ECDIS). This calls for a level of harmonisation and standardisation, first of all between (future) RENC's, that needs coordination and direct guidance by IHB. Ultimately, a test data set meant for type approval of ECDIS should be approved by (IHB on behalf of) IHO. Since the matter is very important in order to have the ECDIS concept implemented, an "intermediate" solution is required. A possibility could thus be to have the present test data set initiatives routed via PRIMAR, for validation, before IHB "approves" them for use by the industry. This will ensure consistence between the ENC's from a RENC and the ENC test data on the market and, at the same time, enable the industry to finalise type approval in the near future. Both should be regarded a minimum at this stage.

Presentation Library

During the NMGD Project it has been revealed that the Presentation Library, when strictly implemented according to S-52, in some cases has characteristics that do not seem to give an optimum presentation solution. Without going into details at this stage, NMGD wishes to demonstrate the practical consequences of the presentation requirements in S-52 as a basis for input to the revision of colours & symbols. The goal should be to obtain a set of Presentation Library requirements that are consistent and also satisfy the minimum performance requirements of the ECDIS.

Conclusion

The NMGD Project has, as part of its planned activities, scrutinised the requirements for both, the ENC test data set and the Presentation Library. The importance of the test data as part of the supporting ECDIS infrastructure is such that we believe it is necessary to proceed as indicated above. A consistent set of Presentation Library requirements is also considered to be in the interest of both HO's and the ECDIS industry, and will therefore be further elaborated by the project.