13th CHRIS MEETING
17-19 September 2001, Athens, Greece

RNC DEVELOPMENT
(August 2001)

1 - AUSTRALIA

RNC Availability and Usage

1.   The entire folio of 384 Australian charts is commercially available in HCRF form on one CD-ROM.   In addition, GeoTIFF charts are available for use in GIS.

2.   RNCs are being used by the Royal Australian Navy in submarines, ships, and aircraft.   They are also be used by, amongst others, the Army, Customs, Water Police, Port Authorities, Government Authorities, Maritime training institutions, Maritime Museums, the Australian National Library, and The Department of Environmental Protection.

Seafarer[?] Viewer Software

3.   *Seafarer[?] Viewer* is a raster chart viewer for non-navigation and reference uses.   This desktop software package has had the pleasing effect of increasing public and government service awareness of the availability and utility of official charts.

Chart Production Benefits

The use of raster as the basis for paper chart maintenance has continued to provide savings in manpower and materials.   Repromat is now routinely produced from print ready negatives generated directly from raster files.

2 – UNITED KINGDOM

Report on Admiralty Raster Chart Service (ARCS)

1.   The UKHO's ARCS is in its seventh year of commercial service. It comprises nearly 3.000 charts, providing near worldwide cover. New charts, new editions and updates are producted routinely in step with the equivalent updates to the Admiralty paper chart services.

2.   ARCS continues to achieve good sales and very positive feedback is obtained from users.

3 – UNITED STATES (NOAA)

The United States (NOAA) produces raster navigational charts in partnership with Maptech, Inc.

1.   The entire suite of 1,016 NOAA nautical charts are available in BSB raster chart format.   They are distributed on a CD with approximately 60-80 charts per CD.   Also included on the CD is the "Coast Pilot" (the U.S. equivalent to sailing directions), the List of Lights, tide tables, current tables (where they exist), oblique aerial photographs, orthophotographs, U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps of the near shore area, a marine facilities database and locator, plus free viewing software.   The retail price is 200 USD per CD – the same as when the product was first introduced in 1995 and contained only the raster charts.

2. A weekly electronic updating service for the RNCs has been in service for over 1 year. The service distributes a weekly e-mail to subscribers with an embedded .ftp link. When the link is clicked on, the weekly update file is downloaded as an executable file. The downloaded file is then clicked on to begin execution, and the update patches for an entire CD are automatically installed. The update service costs 300 USD per year for all of the charts on a CD. The patches may also be printed out and used to correct the corresponding paper charts.

3. Acceptance of the RNCs has been excellent. Over 100,000 vessels are using the NOAA RNCs, which are produced under a public/private partnership with Maptech, Inc. Sales of the weekly update service are increasing steadily, including substantial sales to government operators, marine pilot associations and shipping companies. Professional mariners and recreational boaters praise the raster charts, citing their ease of use, quality, and value.

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