Paper for Consideration by TSMAD

Development of a Guideline for S-100 Product Specification Development

Submitted by:	UK
Executive Summary:	This paper discusses the development of a guideline for S-100 product specification development by IALA. It invites TSMAD to consider whether a similar document would be useful in support of the wider use of S-100.
Related Documents:	a) IALA eNAV 12 Output 14
Related Projects:	1. S-100

Introduction / Background

1. During 2012 IALA began work to prepare for the use of the S-100 standard within the context of e-Navigation following the endorsement of S-100 by IMO. A meeting was hosted at the IHB during January 2012 which brought together IHO and IALA representatives to move forward IALA's use of the GI registry and discuss the development of product specifications.

Analysis/Discussion

2.   One of the outcomes of the workshop was that for organizations which are new to S-100 a 'cookbook' guide would be useful to distill key concepts of S-100 itself without including all technical elements which may not be applicable to some audiences. A further point to consider is that as other organizations use S-100 there has been demand for support in using the standard from other bodies. A guideline document would reduce the requirements for IHO representatives to attend other working groups and provide assistance. It was noted at HSSC4 that TSMAD should provide assistance and advice to other organizations but has limited resources.

3. Following the workshop the chair of the IALA e-NAV committee worked with the TSMAD UK representative to develop a draft guideline (Annexe A). This built on S-100 chapter 12 and attempted to provide the key concepts and include illustrative examples to aid understanding. The document was submitted to IALA e-NAV 12 in September 2012 which considered that a more detailed document is required. IALA e-NAV will progress this work.

Conclusion

4. As S-100 is used more widely there is a need for new users to understand the content relevant to them. A guideline would provide a useful resource which would reduce the resource impact on IHO (TSMAD) in supporting other organizations. One option would be to work with IALA to develop two documents sharing content as appropriate and technically aligned.

Action Required of TSMAD

- Note the development of a guide to developing product specifications by IALA e-NAV committee
- Consider if TSMAD should develop a similar guideline to support the wider use of S-100