



TRANSFER STANDARD MAINTENANCE & APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (TSMADWG)

[A Working Group of the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems – CHRIS]

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Secretary: Tony PHARAOH (acting)

TSMAD Letter: 01/2005

To: TSMAD Members

Date 1 June 2005

Subject: Draft Request to CHRIS Regarding Options for Development of ENC Product Specification

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to send you this first 'TSMAD Letter.' It has become apparent that with our annual meeting cycle it can be difficult to address issues that come up in a timely manner, so I would like to use this mechanism to facilitate working by correspondence. The CSPCWG has been using a similar mechanism for several years now with great success.

At TSMAD 11 we prepared what was then referred to as the "S-57 Edition 4.0 Primer" for publication on the IHO Web site. This paper was released on the IHO Web site as the "S-57 Edition 4.0 Information Paper" and announced in Circular Letter 83 of 2004. The Circular Letter states, "*Current plans are to release a new ENC Product Specification approximately one year after publication of S-57 Edition 4.0.*" The Information Paper states, "*Any future ENC Product Specification would take approximately two years to develop after publication of the S-57 Edition 4.0 base standard, and will involve the active participation of all 'stakeholders.'*" Following the release of the paper and Circular Letter, there were questions about the future of the ENC Product Specification development time frame and what implications S-57 4.0 has for the various stakeholders in ENC and ECDIS (e.g., should new producing HOs wait for Edition 4.0 before beginning ENC production?).

These questions prompted Captain Robert Ward, Deputy Hydrographer of Australia, Chairman of CHRIS, to draft a letter which was published as part of Circular Letter 26 of 2005. This letter states, "No decision has been made to supersede the S-57e3.1 ENC prod spec with an S-57e4.0 ENC Prod Spec." Furthermore, the Information Paper on the IHO Web site was changed and the section referring to a specific time frame for a new ENC PS was changed to agree with the Circular Letter.

After a series of e-mails between the CHRIS Chair and others, including Barrie Greenslade and

myself, he asked TSMAD and C&SMWG “to bring some options papers and proposals to the CHRIS for consideration.” The main questions that he asked TSMAD to address are the future of the ENC PS under S-57 3.1 and the possibility of producing an Edition 3.2.

During the TSMAD SubWG that was held during the last week of April this year, we held a ‘mini-TSMAD’ with the full WG members who were in attendance to discuss the questions asked by the CHRIS Chair. I am including all of the questions from his e-mail as well as my responses on behalf of TSMAD as Annex B for your reference, as there were several other questions asked that are not being addressed via this letter. After spending several hours discussing the primary questions and identifying a number of ‘pros and cons’ for various options, I convened a small drafting group to work on a paper for submission to CHRIS 17 to be held in November of this year. The drafting group worked on the paper for a day and a half at the SubWG meeting and by correspondence for the past month.

Please find attached to this letter at Annex A, the final draft of the options paper that is proposed for submission to CHRIS. I would appreciate any comments that you may have on the paper. I prefer that you send them by making changes to the document using the “Track Changes” function in Word and send the revised document back to the entire e-mail distribution list by using “Reply All.” That way everyone will have a chance to see your suggested changes. No comments back indicates that you approve of the document as it is.

As there is a deadline of July 15 for CHRIS submissions and I will need time to incorporate any changes, please send me your responses and any suggestions for improvements **by 17 June 2005**.

Yours sincerely,

/signed/

Michael B. Brown,
Chairman

Annex A: ENC Product Specification Options

Annex B: TSMAD Chair Responses to CHRIS Chair