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WORKSHOP ON ECDIS SOFTWARE ISSUES

IHB File No. S3/8157

IHO ECDIS Stakeholders
(see Distribution List)

13 December 2010

Reference: A. IMO MSC paper MSC88/25/6

Dear IHO ECDIS Stakeholder,

1 The 88th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC88) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) discussed the paper at Reference A, a submission from Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA) on "*Operating anomalies identified within ECDIS*". The matter was also the subject of a lunchtime presentation made by the United Kingdom, where examples of the issues under discussion were described.

2 The IHO made a verbal intervention to MSC88 supporting the paper. In this intervention, the IHO stated that while Hydrographic Offices are encoding the new features fairly recently recognised by IMO, such as Archipelagic Sea Lanes and some ECDIS manufacturers have updated the latest editions of their ECDIS software to account for the resulting new versions of the IHO standards, there is no obligation for such changes to be incorporated in ECDIS software and equipment that has already been type approved and fitted in ships. The IHO noted that this also applies to any operating shortcomings not covered by type-testing that may be identified from time to time in ECDIS software. MSC88 was informed that, in the view of the IHO, it is unrealistic to expect that sophisticated software-based equipment, such as ECDIS can be installed in ships and then never be upgraded during its lifetime.

3 As a result of the discussions, MSC88 invited further comment and contributions to be submitted to its next session in May 2011. In view of the current situation and in order to provide useful input to MSC89, the IHO indicated that the IHB will host a workshop where relevant stakeholder organizations will be invited to discuss the matters raised in document MSC88/25/6 in order to develop ways in which the issues raised may be addressed. This workshop will take place at the IHB in Monaco from 0930 to 1700 on **Tuesday 15 February 2011** and from 0900 to no later than 1200 on **Wednesday 16 February 2011**.

4 This letter invites relevant International Organizations, ECDIS equipment manufacturers and technical bodies as well as those IMO Member States that co-sponsored the submission to MSC88 to attend the workshop. Any IHO Member State that considers that it can contribute to the debate about ECDIS software shortcomings has already been invited to attend the workshop. If you consider that you can provide a practical contribution to the workshop, please confirm attendance by sending the attached registration form (Annex A) to info@ihb.mc **by 31 January 2011**.

5 The final agenda for the workshop will be developed over the coming weeks but an outline of the topics to be considered is attached at Annex B. Please note that this list is an initial draft and may change following input from prospective attendees. To this end, the Directing Committee would welcome, at the earliest opportunity, any comments that you may have on the matters under consideration and the proposed topics to be discussed. Similarly, please forward any suggestions for other stakeholders who should be considered to attend the workshop.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert WARD
Director

REGISTRATION FORM FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE
WORKSHOP ON ECDIS SOFTWARE ISSUES
(To be returned to the IHB (info@ihb.mc) by 31 January 2011)

Organization:

Name of person attending:

Email address for correspondence:

Brief description of expertise/experience to be contributed to the workshop topics:
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Proposed topics to be included in the Agenda:

DAY 1	
0930-1030	1. Introduction / Outline of the issues
1100-1500	2. What measures can be taken in the short term? What are the consequences/impact/implications of such measures?
1530-1700	3. Is there a need for a longer term solution(s)? If so, what is it/are they? What are the consequences/impact/implications of such measures?
DAY 2	
0900-1000	4. Is there other equipment in ships that could be similarly affected by software upgrading issues? Examples?
1030-1200	5. Develop and endorse outline of IHO report to MSC89

Distribution:

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Norway	<i>turid.stemre@sjofartsdir.no</i>
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International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)	<i>peter.hinchliffe@marisec.org</i> <i>john.murray@marisec.org</i>
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Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)	<i>mailbox@bimco.org</i>
Cruise Line Industry Association (CLIA)	<i>tthompson@cruising.org</i> <i>pbeggs@princesscruises.com</i>
International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO)	<i>london@intertanko.com</i>
International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO)	<i>info@intercargo.org</i>
INTERFERRY	<i>len.roueche@interferry.com</i> <i>tom@harborexperience.com</i>
International Parcel Tankers Association (IPTA)	<i>mail@ipta.org.uk</i>
International Electrotechnical Commission Technical Committee 80:	
Chairman	<i>andy@drandynorris.co.uk</i>
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Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM)	<i>secgen@cirm.org</i>
ECDIS kernel manufacturers (not aligned with CIRM)	
OSI	<i>jpratt@osl.com</i>

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QinetiQ	<i>mdthomas@qinetiq.com</i>
Nautical Institute	<i>djp@nautinst.org</i>