

MEIP – Progress Report to the MACHC

To update MACHC Members on MEIP WG Progress

1. Maritime Economic Infrastructure – General Overview

<p>The last MEIP WG teleconference took place in March 2014. This was followed up with a briefing on the OECS project in September 2014 and a meeting at EIHC.</p>	<p>The last MEIP Teleconference took place on Wednesday 12th March 2014. At this meeting Tim Lewis (previous Chair) made known his imminent departure and asked for a volunteer to succeed him as MEIP WG Chair. He thanked the group for their commitment so far and wished the MEIP WG well for the future.</p> <p>At the EIHC in Monaco, a MACHC meeting was called on Sunday 5th September. At this meeting, it was decided that as Chris Thorne was taking over the role held by Tim Lewis he should be “elected” as the Chair of the MEIP.</p>
<p>It was felt at that point that the MEIP had achieved what it could and would look to the outcomes of the OECS Scoping Study for future focus of the group</p>	<p>The demonstrator models had shown that the technology was available and would support such a portal, but issues around governance still remained. Little progress could be made without further commitment from MEIP stakeholders. (Section 2 below explains the key overview of Demonstrator Progress). This being the case, the MEIP was paused as the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) Scoping Study would be well underway by the MACHC in Manzanillo, in December 2014 and the participants agreed that this would be a suitable vehicle to take the work of the MEIP forward. A briefing of the OECS scoping study was given to the MEIP WG in September and is included with this report.</p>

2. Demonstrator Model Progress

<p>The demonstrators</p>	<p>The demonstrator models provided by Caris and ESRI have shown to the working group that the technology</p>
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have proven suitable technology	is available for a portal for maritime geospatial information. Both companies are commended for making their solutions available and providing assistance and support to the working group in their use.
More information about costs is required	Mexico has proposed to the group that Caris and ESRI produce a cost analysis for their solutions, in order that the members can plan budgets and get the system up and running. Cost is an important enabling factor. Industry proof of concept demonstrations demonstrated the technology but questions regarding governance remain.

3. Other IHO Initiatives and how they interlink

It is important that IHO initiatives share progress and expertise	The need to ensure that the MEIP is linked to other IHO initiatives remains. The Antarctic GIS is a useful portal and specific to that region. The BSHC MSDI WG is closely linked to the Inspire legislation, and countries involved have a mandate to make public sector information available. The MEIP WG needs to involve itself with the work of the IHO MSDI WG to ensure that expertise is shared and to avoid duplication of effort. The MEIP needs to decide how it wishes to move forward
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4. Summary

The MEIP WG has achieved its objectives with the resources available so far and the progress of the OECS Scoping Study will inform its next steps.

The MEIP should decided its future direction at MACHC15