

PRIMAR Report 2011

1 Introduction

The PRIMAR international co-ordinating centre for electronic navigational charts (ENCs) has been operated by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service (NHS) since 1. April 2002.

PRIMAR's Vision.

In order to enhance safety at sea and protect the maritime environment, PRIMAR's vision is to be the most efficient model for the provision of ENC services and maritime geospatial data worldwide

Since the last NSHC meeting no new nations has joined the PRIMAR ENC service, but 17 ENC s from Colombia is made available through the agreement with for IC-ENC. Including the agreement with IC-ENC, the PRIMAR ENC service now distributes ENCs from 38 nations. The following countries are members of the Regional ENC Coordination Centre regime (RENC): Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia, Mozambique, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

PRIMAR makes its database of ENCs available through 63 distributors located in 23 countries, and serving all the major markets. This also includes data from the other RENC and HOs, and is distributed within their own tailored, integrated service as described in the WEND Principles.

PRIMAR today provides the world's widest official ENC coverage with 7260 ENCs from PRIMAR cooperating nations (RENC members and non-members) and 2 875 ENCs from IC-ENC, a total of 10135 ENCs an increase of 668 ENCs since the last meeting. A total of 18500 ER- updates have been provided to mariner's world wide

2. Quality Assurance

All ENCs that are delivered to PRIMAR undergo a set of checks before they are released into the market. The data is uploaded to the Virtual PRIMAR Network (VPN). The VPN technology is a set of tools and functionality to give Hydrographic Offices or other data producers a possibility to get a closer participation in the operations in a database of ENCs. It also enables a HO to have a much better control and management of its own information stored in an ENC database. When data is uploaded, the system performs a set of checks on the data, e.g. S-57 data structure, filenames, issue dates, external files, order of updates, geo limits etc.

In the VPN the data is validated using Validation Report Checker (VRC). The VRC is an internet based software tool linked to the Errors Database and allows upload of validation reports into a data management production database. The uploaded reports are "verified" against the Errors Database using an interactive process to accept or reject errors and

warnings that are reported. The input validation reports that are loaded into the VRC are three different validation logs.

ENCs in the same navigational band should not have data overlap and all data that is uploaded to the PRIMAR database is therefore checked for overlap against the whole PRIMAR database containing 10135 ENCs.

The final check that is done is to upload all data into two different ECDIS systems to see that it is no problem to import the data.

When all checks above are done, the ENCs can be released.

3. Distribution:

During 2010 3 new distributors were added to the distribution network, A business to business (B2B) interface was successfully launched in 2007 allowing distributors to integrate their own business-systems with PRIMAR.

The NHS and its cooperating HOs are continuously working to include new nations to the PRIMAR quality service. Discussions have taken place with China and Malaysia but so far no agreements have been signed.

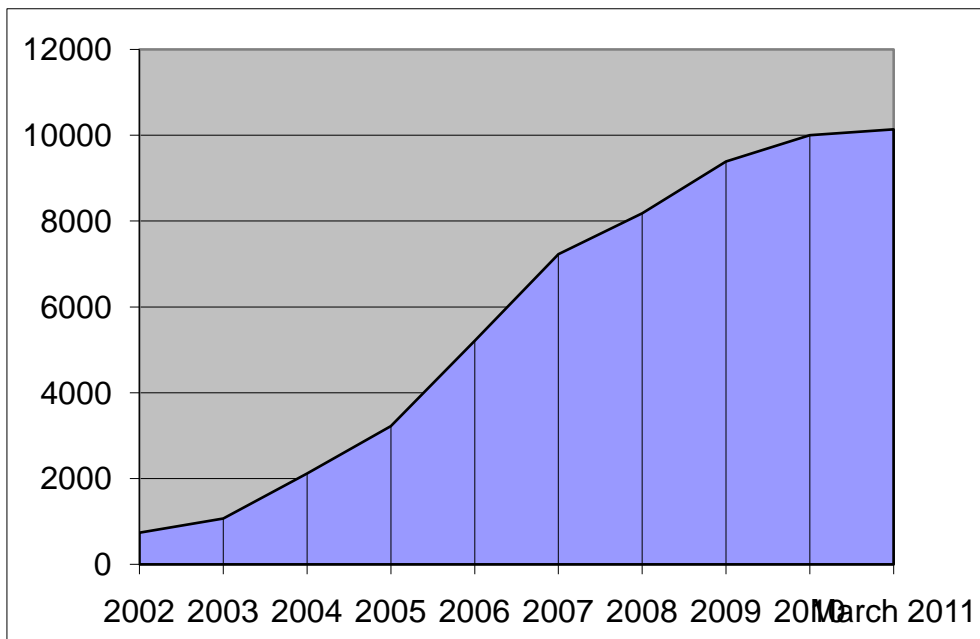


Figure 1 Development of PRIMAR database

PRIMAR is unique in offering a virtual solution (Virtual PRIMAR Network) which gives all member countries full access to and control over own data within a secure network. Automatic integrated operations check data quality, particularly in overlap zones. This provides additional security, allowing charts from different nations to work together

without problems. Maintaining good control of data is also important in ensuring that none of the available navigation systems have problems reading the formats.

Customer folio planning and ordering is automatic via the PRIMAR Chart Catalogue enabling distributors to perform ordering and sales 24/7. Version 4.5 of the catalogue with some new functionality will be launched in May 2011.

PRIMAR Coverage March 2011

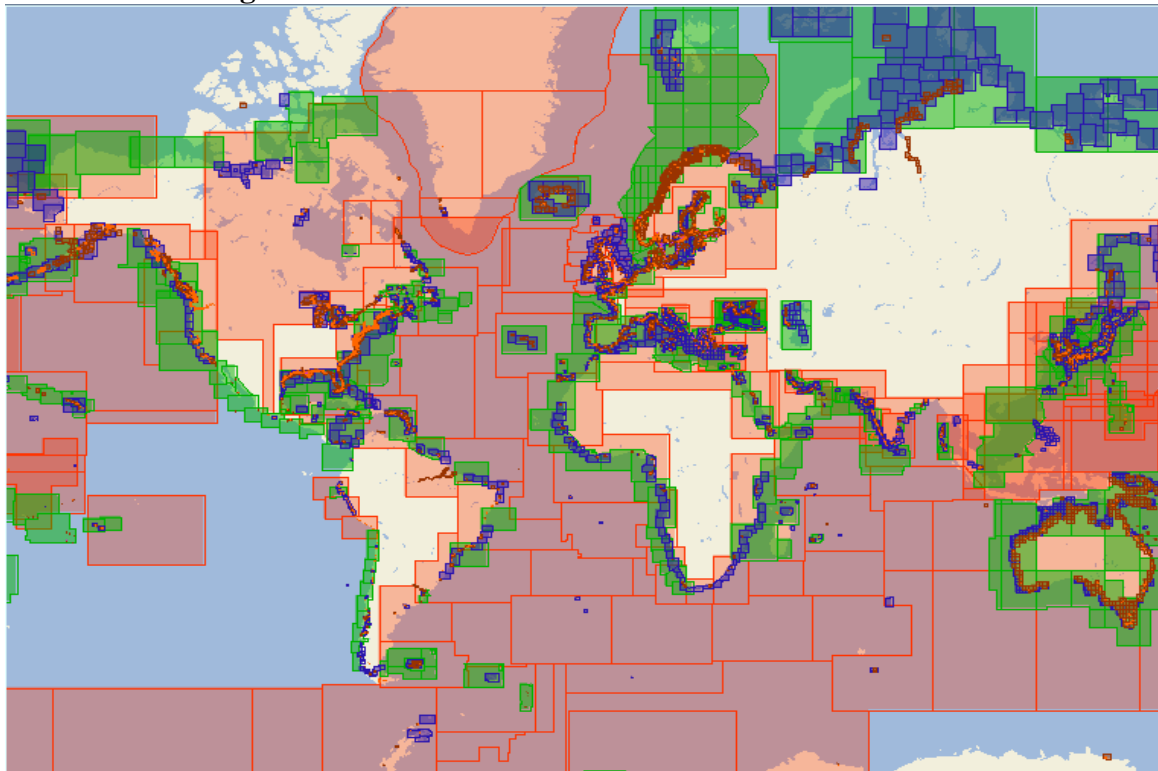


Figure 2 Coverage in PRIMAR database March 2011

Increasing demand for ENC

The PRIMAR service continues to experience substantial growth in the number of ENC subscriptions and the number of end users. There was an increase of 18 % in the number of end users from 2009 to 2010, and more than 1 mill ENCs in daily use.

PRIMAR has also been focussing on implementing standardised efficient national services for navies and governmental organisations (pilots, VTS, maritime authorities etc). The Web Map Service (WMS) based on the ENC data was launched during 2009 and it is currently available only to the national governmental users.

The Inspector tool which was developed as a project together with the Norwegian Maritime Directorate and PRIMAR/ECC was also released in 2009. This tool provides port state control inspectors with information regarding the status of ENCs on board the vessels and enables them plan the PSC inspections more efficiently.

For more information visit www.primar.org