

## 2nd Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)

Rostock, Germany, 26-29 October 2010

The second meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) was held in Rostock from 26-29 October 2010, hosted by the German Hydrographic Service. The HSSC oversees the technical program of the IHO. The meeting was preceded by an informal Chair Group meeting comprising the chairs of the various HSSC Working Groups. The Chairman of HSSC, Captain Vaughan Nail (UK) presided at both meetings.

The meeting was attended by 62 delegates from 26 Member States together with representatives from seven Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIO's) and sister intergovernmental organizations.



Delegates and Representatives at HSSC-2

During the meeting the work of HSSC's ten subordinate Working Groups was examined. Of particular note was the endorsement of S-99 - management rules and procedures for the operation of the S-100 Geospatial Information Registry (GI Registry). As a result, the HSSC decided to recommend that IHO Member States adopt S-99 as an active standard from 1 January 2011.

The Committee was informed that the S-100 GI Registry is already being used by a number of HSSC Working Groups to develop such things as the S-101 ENC Product Specification and a new digital standard for nautical publications data. Other organizations, outside the IHO, such as the Inland ENC Harmonization Group (IEHG), the UN Department of Administration of the Law of the Sea (UN DOALOS) and the World Meteorological Organization group on Ice Thickness and Snow on Ice (WMO-ITSI) are also using the IHO GI Registry to support their product specifications developments for Inland ENCs, extended continental shelf claims and sea ice reporting, respectively. At the same time, the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and the IMO Correspondence Group on e-Navigation are expressing an increasing interest in using the S-100 GI Registry to

support their complementary maritime data requirements and the e-Navigation concept in the future. This is all very much in keeping with the philosophy behind introducing S-100 as a flexible, extensible, contemporary standard to encourage the widest possible use of hydrographic data and information standards beyond the fields of hydrography and nautical charting.



The IALA and CIRM representatives confer at HSSC-2

Other notable topics discussed included proposals concerning the HSSC input to the IHO Strategic Planning Process, and in particular ways to reduce the number of recommended Performance Indicators to a more manageable level. The Committee also provided input by way of a list of strategic topics that were forwarded to the Directing Committee as part of developing the 2013-2017 Plan.

The Committee learned of certain shortcomings in the way that the governing IHO standards for ECDIS may have been inappropriately implemented by some equipment manufacturers and the potential consequences for safety of navigation. As a result, the committee agreed that the ECDIS test data set should be enhanced and recommended that an urgent meeting be arranged between the relevant stakeholders, including IHO, ECDIS manufacturers, equipment type-approval authorities, and maritime Administrations.

In addition to the formal meeting, many useful informal side discussions and coordination meetings took place.