ENG15-3.2.6

Input paper for the following Committee(s): Purpose of paper:

ARM  ENG  PAP  Input

ENAV VTS  Information

Agenda item 3.2

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Hideki NOGUCHI

Chair, ENAV

Proposal to IMO NCSR 9 regarding   
IMO position for WRC-23 agenda item 10

# Background

At the 6th session of IMO NCSR Sub-Committee, IALA sent the liaison note that proposed to include digitalization of voice communication in the VHF maritime mobile band and VDES R-Mode into the IMO position for WRC-19 agenda item 10 (agenda item for the next WRC) but the Sub-Committee decided that the both items were not mature enough and not include in the IMO position.

At the 17th meeting of IMO/ITU joint expert group on maritime radiocommunication matters (IMI/ITU EG) discussed the IMO position for WRC-23 agenda item 10 and invited the Member States and organizations to submit the proposal to NCSR9.

# discussion

Digitalization of voice communication in the VHF maritime mobile band and VDES R-Mode are important to the safety of navigation, especially VTS and PNT services that are under the IALA remit and the ENG and ENAV Committee have worked for the development of both technologies. As the result, the IALA Guideline G1158 “VDES R-Mode” was published and the discussion on the digitalization of VHF voice communication was deepened. Therefore, the both technologies become mature enough to the agenda items for WRC-27 that allow the change of the Radio Regulations accordingly for the practical implementation of the technologies.

If IMO does not support the inclusion of the both technologies into the IMO position for WRC-23 agenda item 10, there could be the possibility that WRC-23 will not decide the both technologies as the agenda items of WRC-27 and the introduction and implementation of the both technologies will be significantly delayed. The attached shows the draft input paper for the submission to NCSR 9.

The deadlines of the submission to NCSR 9 are set as follows;

* bulky documents by 21 March 2022;
* non-bulky documents by 18 April 2022; and
* comment documents by 2 May 2022.

Accordingly, ENG 15, planned to 28 February - 17 March 2022, is first to consider the draft input and send the liaison to ENAV 29, planned to 14 March - 1 April 2022, that finalizes the draft input for the online approval from the Council and send the input to IMO by 18 April.

# Action requested

The ENG and ENAV are invited to consider the draft input and take action as appropriate.