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

**□** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **□** Input

**X** ENAV **X** VTS **X** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) 3.3

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 …………………………………

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Nick Ward (IALA E2 / VDES)

IALA support of EfficienSea 2 – VDES development

# Summary

IALA is participating in the EfficienSea 2 project, focusing on the development of the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) and the Maritime Cloud. In the course of the work, the IALA Secretariat provided additional text for the IALA VTS Manual 2016, introducing VDES, for consideration by IALA Council.

## Purpose of the document

The Committee is invited to note the work by IALA to support the VDES, in particular the text developed for inclusion in the 2016 IALA VTS Manual.

# Background

IALA is participating in the EfficienSea 2 project, which involves development of the VDES and the Maritime Cloud.

As part of the work on VDES, a communications strategy to promote broad understanding of the VDES and the development process has been identified. Part of that work is to develop text on VDES for inclusion in both the IALA Navguide and the IALA VTS Manual.

Noting the imminent publication of the 2016 edition of the VTS Manual at the IALA VTS Symposium an opportunity to provide an introduction to the VDES in the current draft was identified. As a result, the IALA Secretariat submitted a proposal for a slight revision to the IALA VTS Manual to IALA Council 62, which was agreed by Council.

# Discussion

IALA Council agreed to an addition to the VTS Manual that set out the developing situation with VDES. This was achieved by deleting one sentence and adding in in Chapter 11, section 1104 – Radio Communications (page 78) as follows:

**Delete** – the last sentence of the second paragraph of section 1104: ‘*New developments will provide even more digital functionalities in the future’*

**Insert** – new text:

*‘Developments in digital data exchange are expected to improve overall maritime communications capabilities. At the World Radio Conference 2015 the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) identified 6 frequencies in the VHF maritime mobile band for the use of digital data transfer. These frequencies form part of the developing VHF Data Exchange System (VDES). With the ability to group the new frequencies together to provide a larger band for data transfer, the VDES will encompass AIS and provide enhanced digital data functionality in the future. IALA is working within an international framework to ensure the development of the VDES meets the needs of IALA members, which includes support for VTS use cases.’*

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to: (Body text)

1. Note the work of IALA to support Efficiensea 2
2. Note the changes agreed to the 2016 IALA VTS Manual regarding the developing status of the VDES.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)