Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) ARM5-8.5.2

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

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

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Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) 8.5

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 1.1.6

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Information related to the draft guideline on the use of mobile AtoN

# Summary

Present paper provides information on the discussion during 12th IMO/ITU experts group that took place at IMO headquarter from 11th to 15th July 2016 concerning the identification and categorization of autonomous maritime radio devices (AMRD). In that respect, the IMO/ITU EG considered regulatory actions within the frequency band 156-162.05 MHz for autonomous maritime radio devices to protect the GMDSS and automatic identifications system (AIS), in accordance with Resolution 362 (WRC15).

## Purpose of the document

ARM committee should take into account development at ITU and IMO relative to autonomous maritime radio devices (AMRD) before finalizing the draft guidelines on the marking and use of mobile AtoN.

## Related documents

* ARM 5-8.5.1 draft guideline on the use of mobile AtoN
* IMO/ITU 12/5/3 WRC-19 Agenda item 1.9.1 - Working document - Work plan for WRC-19
* IMO/ITU 12/5/7 Identification and Categorization of autonomous maritime radio devices
* IMO/ITU 12/5/11 WRC-19, Agenda item 1.9.1
* IMO/ITU 12/5/12 New maritime agenda items to be considered at WRC-19

# Background

There are some kinds of autonomous maritime radio devices using automatic identification system (AIS) technology or digital selective calling (DSC) technology, or transmitting synthetic voice messages, or with a combination of those technologies, and have been developed and operating in maritime environment, and their number is expected to increase. Some of these devices are not related to the safety of navigation or the purpose of communication between coast stations and ship stations, or between ship stations, or between associated on-board communication stations, or survival craft stations and emergency position-indicating radio beacon stations, but occupying the spectrum and identities of maritime mobile service. There are general requirements to categorize and regulate the usage of autonomous maritime radio devices.

# Discussion

12th IMO/ITU EG noted that the following two issues should be considered with priority:

.1 review, and complete if possible, the definitions/scope of AMRD; and

.2 collecting information on categorization of AMRD.

1. Taking into account the information provided in documents IMO/ITU EG 12/5/11 and IMO/ITU EG 12/5/12, the IMO/ITU EG considered a liaison statement from WP 5B to IMO and IALA (IMO/ITU EG 12/5/7) inviting IMO and IALA to:

.1 consider to this topic related issues, particularly on the need to categorize the various autonomous maritime radio devices (AMRD); and

.2 note that WP 5B was working towards a formal definition for the term AMRD.

1. The IMO/ITU EG noted the draft definition for AMRD under discussion in WP 5B. The Group further noted the many square brackets in the draft definition, and that many issues needed to be discussed in detail.
2. The Group further noted that care should be taken to define this matter, because there was a risk that a definition of AMRD might cause more problems in the end than it might solve.
3. The view was expressed that it was important to look at the operational environment and approach the matter from that perspective and to distinct what would be of importance for the safety of navigation, and what would not. For instance by answering the question which devices should be shown on an ECDIS, and which one should not, it might be possible to identify several categories and consequential a better way to decide on the appropriate definition.
4. After consideration, the Group suggested the following definition of AMRDs:

“An autonomous maritime radio device (AMRD) is a mobile station; operating at sea and transmitting independently of a ship station or a coast station. Two groups of AMRDs are identified:

.1 AMRDs that influence the safety of navigation; and

.2 AMRDs that do not influence the safety of navigation.”

1. The Group discussed the need for protection of all systems operating under the Maritime Mobile Service and not only the integrity of AIS and GMDSS. After consideration, the Group decided to restrict the draft IMO position, for the time being, to protection of the integrity of AIS and GMDSS and to consider the matter further at future meetings.

# References

Related enclosed documents:

IMO/ITU 12/5/3, IMO/ITU 12/5/7, IMO/ITU 12/5/11 & IMO/ITU 12/5/12

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the information provided from IMO and ITU
2. Delay the draft guidelines on the use of mobile AtoN pending a final definition of AMRD within the work plan for WRC-19.

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