

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

☐ ARM                      ☐ ENG                      ☐ PAP  
☐ ENAV                      ☒ VTS

Purpose of paper:

☒ Input  
☐ Information

Agenda item <sup>2</sup>    8.3

Technical Domain / Task Number <sup>2</sup>              1.3.1

Author(s) / Submitter(s)                          Intersessional Group on Task 1.3.1 (formerly 1.3.2).

## WG1 Intersessional Group on VTS digital communications

### 1 SUMMARY

Work the on task 1.3.1 (formerly 1.3.2) to develop guidance on VTS Digital Communications commenced at VTS52. The objective of the task is to produce a new IALA guideline which specifies how to implement the practices associated with *Recommendations R0127 - VTS Operations* and *R1012 - VTS Communications* for the interaction between VTS and ships by digital means.

#### 1.1 Purpose of the document

To brief the participants of VTS54 on the progress that was made on task 1.3.2 to develop guidance on VTS Digital Communications after VTS53.

#### 1.2 Related documents

VTS54-8.3.1.1 Draft GL on VTS Digital communications\_20230615

VTS54-8.3.1.2 VTS Route Service Specification\_230815

VTS54-8.3.1.3 VTS Common Operational Picture\_230615

### 2 DISCUSSION

At VTS52 the task group agreed on the high-level principles for the content and structure of the new guideline.

The Guideline should:

- Focus on the operational aspects, without detailed system requirements.
- Be for different levels of automation, with the focus on situations where human is in the loop.
- Focus on the digital information exchange between VTS and vessels, incl. ROC.
- Focus on current technologies and available specifications.
- Use of concrete use-case examples, similarly as in GL 1132.
- Give concrete examples of current best practices, e.g AIS ASM messages, UKC systems and advance reporting.

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<sup>1</sup> Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary

<sup>2</sup> Leave open if uncertain

The task group has also noted that the following topics should be considered during the development of the new guideline:

- Reduction on the VHF communications through system-to-system information exchange
- Benefits of route exchange between ships and VTS
- Equipment required on-board for information exchange, especially the need for additional systems other than ECDIS, which does not require a rigid performance standard, to promote consumption of digital VTS services

During VTS53 committee finalised the update of Maritime Service description for VTS (MS1). The updated description was submitted by IALA to IMO NCSR10 to be included in the update for the IMO MSC/circ. 1610.

At VTS53 the TG also worked together with TG's 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.5.1 to developed use cases which can be used as input when developing technical service specifications for digital data exchange between VTS and other entities. This work was continued at joint intersessional meeting in Oostende 13- 15 March 2023.

During the intersessional meeting the TG 1.3.2 focused on the operational descriptions of two technical service specifications:

- Service Specification for [Digital] VTS Traffic Clearance Service
- Service Specification for VTS Service for the [Digital] exchange of ships' route plans

In addition, the TG also started the work on the operational description of Service Specification for VTS Service for the [Digital] exchange of Common Operational Picture by correspondence.

The TG also continued intersessional work to develop the Guideline on VTS Digital Communications, with the focus on the part B 'Message structure and delivery'. This included addition of the operational descriptions for the potential technical services identified in the description for Maritime Service for VTS. The technical services were divided into VTS specific technical services and other technical services associated with MS1 – VTS.

The guideline and the technical service specifications will be further progressed during VTS54.

### **3 ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee is requested to note:

- 1 The revision of draft Guideline on VTS digital communications.
- 2 The draft operational descriptions and use cases for the technical service specification for VTS Service for the [Digital] exchange of ships' route plans.
- 3 The draft operational descriptions and use cases for the technical service specification for VTS Service for the [Digital] exchange of Common Operational Picture.