

**7 – National matters****7.5 – Singapore**

## Update on National matters from Singapore

1 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown the maritime community with many unprecedented challenges. Nevertheless, Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) and MASS related developments have charged ahead despite the pandemic. This year, Singapore, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, China, Finland, Republic of Korea and Japan launched the MASSPorts network to collectively address challenges and achieve alignment of standards for MASS trials and operations in port. We would like to thank IALA representatives, Mr Omar Eriksson and Capt Phil Day for supporting our virtual launch and inaugural meeting in August 2020.

2 Over the past year, Singapore has also collaborated with various stakeholders to conduct 2 successful MASS trials in our waters and we are excited about testing more MASS technologies in our living lab. It is through disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic that digitalisation and automation have emerged as very viable solutions to ensure business and sustainability. On this note, Singapore remains firmly committed to support the development of MASS and MASS related technologies.

3 At IALA, the Secretariat and Netherlands had tabled an input paper, C71-8.5.1 Impact of MASS on VTS, at Council 71 in June 2020, highlighting the importance of including MASS in IALA's work programme. The paper was very well received by Member States. The Secretariat has since forwarded the paper to all Committees and the PAP for further analysis and recommendations to Council 72. We understand that they have also contacted the IMO, IHO and other sister organisations to inform them of the activities of IALA in the MASS domain.

4 As a follow up to the work at Council 71, Singapore and Netherlands intend to reaffirm our commitment and further contribute to the IALA discussions on MASS at the upcoming Council 72. We plan to make a verbal mention, as part of Agenda Item 5.1\*, that Singapore and the Netherlands will be putting up an input paper to PAP on a proposal to prepare vessel traffic services for MASS. The draft input paper will be circulated for comments prior to its submission to PAP.

*\*Agenda Item 5.1 - Report of the 71<sup>st</sup> Session- Matters arising from the session.*

5 Singapore is a firm believer that MASS and MASS related technologies will continue to play a crucial role in the strategy towards building greater resilience in the shipping industry. We believe that IALA will play a critical role in ensuring that the momentum of such developments will not be lost even as we navigate through these challenging times. Singapore looks forward to continue being an active contributor at IALA and we would like to thank you for your support as we push ahead with new initiatives and discussions on MASS.