



# **Application to Host the IALA ARM Committee Meeting in Ålesund, Norway – Spring 2027**

## **1. Background**

Norway has been an active member of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) for many years. Through the Norwegian Coastal Administration, Norway contributes to the development of global Aids to Navigation (AtoN) systems, maritime digital services, and common international standards.

Norway has further strengthened its involvement by taking on the role of Chair of the IALA ARM Committee.

The Norwegian Coastal Administration has previously hosted international technical meetings in cooperation with IALA and IHO. Ålesund was the host city for the Joint IHO–IALA Workshop on S-100/S-200 from 5 to 9 September 2022, an event that brought together experts from both organizations. This workshop demonstrated Ålesund's suitability for hosting technical and standardization-focused meetings.

## **2. Application**

To support IALA's strategic objectives and contribute to international knowledge sharing within the AtoN community, the Norwegian Coastal Administration formally applies to host the IALA ARM Committee Meeting in Ålesund, Norway, in spring 2027.

## **3. Host City Profile**

### **Ålesund**

Ålesund is a well-established maritime city on the west coast of Norway. It is part of a strong maritime cluster that includes research institutions, training centers, vessel operators, and companies working in navigation, autonomy, simulation, and maritime digital services.

The city is also known for its Art Nouveau (Jugend) architecture, developed after the rebuilding that followed the 1904 fire. The compact city center, with its characteristic buildings, provides an accessible and pleasant environment for visiting delegates.



*The NCAs location in Ålesund*

### **Modern Transport Access**

Ålesund Airport, Vigra (AES), located about 20 minutes from the city center, offers simple access for international participants. The airport has direct flights to key European hubs, including:

- Amsterdam (AMS) – daily flights operated by KLM
- Copenhagen (CPH) – year-round direct flights operated by SAS from 2026

These routes provide convenient connections to the global flight network

### **A Global Maritime Innovation Hub**

Ålesund is part of the Norwegian Maritime Cluster, designated as a Global Centre of Expertise (GCE Blue Maritime Cluster). The region has a strong track record in maritime technology development, including digital navigation, vessel design, and operational services.

The Norwegian Coastal Administration's local presence and cooperation with regional partners enable relevant site visits and demonstrations for ARM Committee participants.

### **Conference Facilities and Accommodation**

Ålesund offers several suitable venues for an IALA technical meeting, including modern conference facilities and a variety of hotels with meeting capacity and catering services. The city has experience hosting professional and international events and can provide the necessary framework for the ARM Committee meeting.

## **4. Key Commitments and Assurances**

If Ålesund is selected as the host city for the ARM Committee Meeting in spring 2027, the Norwegian Coastal Administration commits to:

- Work closely with the IALA Secretariat to ensure that all preparations meet IALA standards and requirements
- Provide logistical and practical support to delegates
- Ensure appropriate conference facilities, technical infrastructure, and services
- Facilitate optional technical visits, demonstrations, or field activities relevant to ARM and AtoN