

IALA COUNCIL 4th Session



**8-11 June 2026
HQ, France**

10 – TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

10.1 – Committee work organisation

10.1.2.2 Workshop on VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) Satellite

Note by DTEC

1. SUMMARY

This document proposes an IALA Workshop on VDES Satellite in Tokyo, hosted by the Japan Coast Guard (JCG), the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI), and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The aim of this workshop is to provide guidance and to share knowledge on the use of the VDES satellite.

2. BACKGROUND

In 2012, at the Workshop on International Standardization of Next Generation AIS, held in Tokyo, Japan, the name of VDES and its definition were agreed upon. Since then, numerous initiatives toward the implementation of VDES have been undertaken worldwide.

The Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR), at its twelfth session held at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in May 2025, agreed on the draft amendments to the SOLAS Convention and the draft performance standards for the introduction of VDES. Furthermore, the 110th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) in June of the same year, approved the draft amendments to the SOLAS Convention and requested that they be circulated with a view to subsequent adoption at MSC 111 to enter into force in January 2028. In this context, initiatives towards the practical implementation of VDES are now accelerating.

As one of these initiatives, OPRI and other stakeholders have been engaged in initiatives focusing on the use of VDES via satellite in Japan. The activities are intended to enhance VDES Satellite as one possible tool for interaction between the maritime and space domains, under a project supported by the Nippon Foundation. In addition, a demonstration of satellite-based VDES data reception and display on ECDIS equipment was conducted by Sternula Japan, Sternula, and the AOS Consortium in cooperation with JCG and OPRI in November last year.

3. DISCUSSION

The proposed workshop aims to develop guidance on the future use of the VDES satellite, including a user manual and perspectives on its use, and to consider activity planning toward practical implementation. The guidance may cover operational requirements for services related to Marine Aids to Navigation, as well as associated technical, regulatory, and operational challenges related to VDES satellite.

On the first day of the workshop, an open forum accessible to the public is also planned, focusing on discussions and sharing knowledge and international trends through presentations on national initiatives.

The proposal of the workshop is attached as an annex to this document.

4. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Approve the workshop proposal as set out in the Annex A of this document.

ANNEX A **DRAFT WORKSHOP PROPOSAL****WORKSHOP ON VDES SATELLITE**

VISION	O4 - Improve the provision and harmonisation of Marine Aids to Navigation globally, through targeted training, technical cooperation, and capacity building initiatives.
GOAL	To develop guidance to IALA members on the use of VDES satellite in future, including a user manual To develop IALA's position on the use of VDES satellite for consideration by IMO and ITU
PURPOSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To disseminate on VDES satellite services to the maritime community (Open forum) To provide a forum for both VDES satellite service providers and users to consider the harmonized and coordinated future use of VDES satellite To identify operational requirements for Marine Aids to Navigation for the use of VDES satellite, including other maritime radiocommunication services To identify technical, regulatory, and operational challenges associated with the use of VDES satellite To identify the role of IALA in relation to VDES satellite
WHO	<p>The workshop will develop guidance and identify future actions for the use of VDES satellite. It is envisaged that invitations will be sent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Aids to Navigation authorities and service providers International maritime radionavigation and radiocommunication operations such as IMO, ITU, IHO, IEC, CIRM, RTCM Space agencies and satellite operators involved in VDES satellite Seafarers' associations (Open forum) Ship owners and operators (Open forum) Industry members involved in VDES satellite services, radio navigation, radiocommunication, and navigation equipment and systems
SIZE OF GROUP	The workshop is expected to attract up to 80 participants. In addition, the open forum is expected to attract approximately 100 participants from maritime community.
WHERE	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Tokyo Japan
DURATION	4 days, including a half-day open forum and a half-day technical excursion to Japanese satellite-related facilities.
WHEN	10-13 November 2026 Note: ITU-R WP 5B (Maritime mobile service) meeting is scheduled for 16 to 27 November 2026
COST TO PARTICIPANTS	TBD (Open Forum: Free of charge)
PROCESS	<p>Day 1 (Tue): Registration, Open Forum, Welcome Reception</p> <p>Day 2 (Wed): Workshop</p> <p>Day 3 (Thu): Workshop (AM), Technical Tour (PM), Dinner</p> <p>Day 4 (Fri): Workshop Conclusion, Closing (AM)</p>
STEERING COMMITTEE	<p>Proposed Steering Committee for the Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairs and Vice Chairs of the IALA DTEC Committee and relevant WGs Representatives of the host organization (JCG and OPRI) IALA Secretariat, including WWA