ENAV15 Input paper

Agenda item 12

Task Number

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Procedures for managing DGNSS Information

# Summary

**1.1 Purpose**

This paper suggests methods of maintaining the DGNSS information on the IALA website.

**1.2 Background**

Since IALA took the lead in making beacon DGNSS the international standard for maritime augmentation of GNSS, a database of station information has been held on the IALA website. IALA has also coordinated the allocation of ID numbers for reference and transmitting stations and given advice on frequencies that might be available. This task has been carried out by the previous ENAV vice chair, in consultation with the secretariat.

The process described in the Annex is proposed to formalise and update the procedures.

**2 ACTION REQUESTED**

The Committee is invited to consider these proposals for possible submission to Council.

**ANNEX**

# 1 BACKGROUND

The IALA Beacon Differential GNSS service is the recognised, international, maritime augmentation system for GNSS. There are some 400 stations worldwide and some countries are in the process of installing or modernising systems.

2 **DATABASE**

The information on DGNSS services is held in pdf format in the Radio-navigation Services section of the IALA website. The data is provided by IALA Members in response to periodic requests for updates. The files include Station name, location, reference and transmitting station ID numbers, frequencies and status.

**3 PROCEDURES**

When new stations are planned, or a change is proposed, an administration will usually contact the IALA secretariat for advice, given in accordance with procedures set out in documentation posted on the old website, together with the station data files. This documentation is not posted on the new website and needs to be made available in some form.

**4 NEED FOR CHANGE**

As indicated above, the arrangements for dealing with DGNSS information (which have worked in the past) are rather informal. The necessary documentation is also not now readily available. The proposals set out below are intended to formalise the arrangements, make the updating process easier and ensure that IALA Members receive sound and timely advice.

**5 INFORMATION FORMAT**

The present pdf format is not easy to change and necessitates holding the information in some other format, so that it can be edited. Two alternative approaches are suggested:

1. Store and manipulate the information as a spreadsheet – this would make it easier to search and check for conflicts in frequencies and ID numbers.

2. Encode the information as XML files, so that it can be updated online. An extension to this approach would be to provide an IALA S-100 Product Specification for DGNSS information. This would be very similar to the AtoN Information Product Specification currently being finalised.

**6 DOCUMENTATION**

It is proposed that the current documentation setting out the scheme for allocating reference and transmitting station ID numbers should be updated and turned into a recommendation or guideline, so that it fits in with other IALA documentation. This would be a task for the successor to Working Group 2 (PNT) of the e-Navigation Committee during the 2014-18 period.

**7 INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS**

The changes suggested in section 5 to the information format will take some time to complete, but could be carried out during the 2014-18 period. The move towards an S-100 PS can be considered the long term goal. Although the present informal arrangements can continue for the interim period, with enquiries dealt with by the secretariat and referred to the former ENAV vice chair for advice, a more formal arrangement should be introduced as soon as possible. For example, from ENAV 15 onwards, responsibility for advice could be transferred to the chair & vice chair of the successor to WG 2.