 Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) ENAV18-13.15

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

**□** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **X** Input

**X** ENAV **□** VTS **□** Information

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Technical Domain / Task Number 2 …………………………………

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Jesper Bäckstedt (Swedish Maritime Administration)

True Heading patent on positioning using AIS data.

# Summary

A patent from True Heading AB was found to have possible clashes with IALA work concerning R‑mode using AIS transmissions. The patent is in Swedish and was forwarded to Swedish Maritime Administration for analysis.

A first look at the patent gives the following:

This patent suggests a method of measuring the time it takes for a transmitting signal to reach three (or more) stations with known locations. When each station has determined the distance to vessel, a common system can calculate the position of the transmitting vessel.

The purpose of the method presented in the patent seems to be a validation of the AIS position transmitted by the vessel and not an independent positioning system for the vessel itself. It also clearly states that the method should not need any atomic clocks, as the accuracy of the positioning is in the order of “a few hundreds of meters”.

It seems to not clash with IALA work with R-mode, but we probably need to make a deeper analysis. Possibly with persons with more legal experience.

# References

1. True Heading AB patent SE 537 593 C2.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Consider if IALA has the possibility to analyse the patent within WG5
2. If not, consider if IALA has the possibility to seek legal advice within or outside IALA

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)