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| **From:** | VTS Committee | ARM19-7.3.13  (VTS56-12.2.4) |
| **To:** | ARM and DTEC Committees | 27 September 2024 |

**LIAISON NOTE**

**Development of a Recommendation on MASS and Marine AtoN**

# introduction

The VTS Committee commenced the development of a *Recommendation on MASS and Marine AtoN* at VTS56 in September 2023 as part of its 2023-2027 work programme.

# Discussion

A draft informative Recommendation (*RXXXX MASS and Marine AtoN*) was prepared to identify additional desirable practices to consider with the advent of MASS insofar as they are not adequately or fully addressed in other IALA recommendations and guidelines specifically related to the provision of VTS and AtoN.

The draft was prepared in a manner that recognises:

* The evolving technological developments associated with MASS, including the expected adoption of:
  + The non-mandatory Code for MASS in 2025; and
  + The mandatory Code for MASS in 2032.
* IALA document *The Future of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) - Future Scenarios Regarding the Development and Evolution of MASS*, IALA, 2024.
* SOLAS regulations V/12 and V/13 with regards to the establishment of vessel traffic services (VTS) and aids to navigation (AtoN), respectively.

It is anticipated that future IALA guidelines providing guidance on how to implement the practices specified in this Recommendation, such as *Guideline GXXXX Developments and Implications of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships for coastal authorities,* will beassociated with this Recommendation.

# Action requested

1. The ARM and DTEC committees are requested to note the draft informative *Recommendation on MASS and Marine AtoN*.
2. The ARM and DTEC committees are further requested to provide feedback on the attached draft Recommendation, if any, and forward the documents to the VTS Committee.