

**IALA WWA Board  
20<sup>th</sup> meeting****16 June 2021****IALA World-Wide Academy – Publishing activity****1. INTRODUCTION**

The domain within which IALA and its World-Wide Academy operates is a rather narrow niche where, in recent times, only a small amount of technical literature has been published. In the early days of lighthouse technology, there was scientific focus on light apparatus technology, the transmission of light through the atmosphere etc. and many publications exist from that era, but over the last 25-50 years the number of new publications within the IALA domain has been negligible.

**2. DISCUSSION**

Some IALA members have shown an interest in writing technical books on various topics within the IALA domain, but there is a barrier when it comes to publishing. This is most probably because of the limited size of the potential market which makes the business case less appealing for a publisher.

This was the case for both Adrian Wilkins book on the history of floating aids to navigation (2014) and Wim van der Heijdens book on AIS in a historic perspective (2019). In both cases, IALA ended up taking the role of publisher.

Recently IALA was approached by a member who wants to publish a book on VHF Data Exchange System (VDES), aimed at educating the world on the potential of this new technology being developed within the IALA technical committees. The member had been to a few publishers and experienced the aforementioned barrier. The business cases were not very good, and the publishers insisted on keeping all the revenue until the publishing costs had been retrieved, after which they only would give the authors a small percentage of the revenue.

**3. PROPOSAL**

It is proposed that the World-Wide Academy establishes a publisher function with a suitable financial budget. The purpose would be to facilitate the creation of new publication on relevant topics within the IALA domain.

**THE BOARD IS REQUESTED TO**

1. Discuss the proposal and possible ways of implementing it.
2. Decide whether or not a publisher function should be established.