**Emerging Digital Technologies Working Group (WG 2)**

**Terms of Reference**

**Introduction**

The development of digital technologies continues to be rapid and it impacts on almost all aspects of the maritime industry, including maritime communications, aids to navigation and VTS. Digital technologies deal with the creation and practical use of digital or computerised information using devices, methods or systems. (Source http://www.dictionary.com)

Therefore, it is important to evaluate emerging digital technologies in consideration of user requirements and needs of IALA membership. The evaluation will be a preliminary, high level, desktop study. It will identify the key features and capabilities advantages/disadvantages, limitations and application to aids to navigation, VTS and services and systems within the context of e-navigation.

For this purpose, a new working group, named ‘Emerging Digital Technologies’ has been established for the 2018-22 period. The working group contributes to IALA’s encouragement to adopt the use of new technologies.

The working group, where appropriate, will work closely with the other working groups of the ENAV Committee, and other Committees.

**Terms of reference**

Taking into account rapporteur reports, papers submitted to the Committee and presentations, comments, discussions and decisions of plenary, the Working Group will:

1. monitor the technological environment and identify possible technologies and systems to be evaluated;
2. invite representatives of candidate technologies to provide information to the working group;
3. evaluate selected emerging digital technologies at a high level, and identify their advantages, limitations and applicability in consideration of user requirements and needs of IALA membership.
4. provide internal advice on emerging digital technologies and inform other working groups and IALA Committees on matters of relevance to their work;
5. review existing IALA documents on marine digital communication systems and update if necessary;
6. organise workshops, seminars or other events on digital technologies, as necessary; and
7. submit a written report at the end of each meeting.