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| From: e-NAV Committee | VTS33/9/3  Formerly e-NAV9/output/13 |
| To: VTS Committee | 18 March 2011 |

Liaison Note

Available VHF Frequencies, Spectrum Management, and VTS and other VTM user needs in relation to the allocation of the radio frequency spectrum

# Introduction

The e-NAV committee thanks the VTS for its liaison notes and regrets the delay in providing a timely response.

# References

1. e-NAV3/7/8 (formerly VTS26-output-1 Liaison note to e-NAV on VHF Frequencies.
2. e-NAV7/10/19 (formerly VTS30-output-11) Liaison note to e-NAV on Future use of the VHF Radio Spectrum in the Port Environment.
3. e-NAV9/10/2 (formerly e-NAV8/10/3) Availability of VHF frequencies.
4. e-NAV9/10/7 (formerly VTS32/output/14) Liaison note to e-NAV to Specify VTS and other VTM related user needs in relation to the allocation of the radio frequency spectrum, for further delivery to the IMO and ITU.

# Discussion

References 1 through 4 identify VTS requirements for additional VHF frequencies, a need for better management of the spectrum, and specify VTS user needs with regard to the radio spectrum. The e-NAV Committee reviewed the references and offer the following comments:

1. The need for additional frequencies is noted. Unfortunately, it is too late in the WRC-2012 process for a radical restructuring of the maritime band (RR AP18). However, WRC-2012 (Agenda Item 1.10) will consider the creation of digital simplex channels in the maritime band by splitting existing duplex channels. This could make additional channels available for VTS operations at the discretion of individual administrations.
2. The e-Navigation Committee has sent a liaison note to ITU and IMO identifying its initial e-NAV spectrum requirements, which includes a request for a WRC-2016 agenda item to support evolving spectrum requirements for e-Navigation and GMDSS modernisation. The e-NAV committee is sending an additional liaison note to the IMO/ITU Joint Experts Group requesting its consideration and support for the WRC-2016 agenda item for e-Navigation (to include VTS operations) and GMDSS modernisation.
3. Spectrum management is a national administration issue, which has to be managed by coordinating the use of the spectrum across border areas by international sharing arrangements with neighbouring countries. ITU may be able to assist individual administrations with sharing arrangements.
4. The e-NAV committee developed a Maritime Radio Communications Plan (MRCP) that includes current and future use of the radio spectrum for e-Navigation. The MRCP will be updated to include evolving e-Navigation user needs and spectrum requirements, as well as VTS and other VTM user needs and spectrum requirements identified in Annex A of reference 2.4. The updated MRCP will be delivered to ITU and IMO by June 2012.
5. WRC-12 Agenda item 1.10 will consider the regulatory status of AIS 1 and 2 with a view to protect AIS for safety of navigation and communications safety.

# Action requested

The VTS committee is requested to:

1. Consider the above information;
2. Identify the specific number of additional VHF channels needed, required channels bandwidth, and whether they must be simplex or duplex channel arrangement by e-NAV11.
3. Identify the additional requirements for other VTM related user needs with specific frequency requirements for current and future systems by band (MF, HF, UHF, SHF, etc.), number of channels, bandwidth, and simplex/duplex arrangements by e-NAV11.
4. Review the MRCP and WWRNP and provide additional information as necessary to the e-NAV committee for inclusion of VTS operations.
5. Consider evolving technologies (e.g. WIMAX, Mesh Networks, etc.) and means of communications such as IP connectivity for future e-NAV VTS operations.