**IALA VTS Technical WG Inter-sessional Meeting 12 to 14th January 2015 at IALA HQ**

**Notes**

**Attendees:**

Richard Aase Norwegian Coastal Administration

Mathieu Aillerie Signalis

Jorgen Brandt Great Belt VTS

Peter Eade Vissim

Steve Guest Kongsberg

Rene Hogendoorn (Chairman) SAAB

Jens Christian Pedersen (Editor) Terma

Rob Townsend (Vice Chairman) MCA

Dave Turnage Kelvin Hughes

Rainer Strenge Federal Waterways & Shipping Agency

**Apologies were received from:**

Dirk Eckhoff

Inoue Shuichi

Malin Dreijer

1. **Opening**

At 0900am, Rene Hogendoorn, Chairman of the Technical WG, welcomed all delegates to the inter-sessional meeting and the WG particularly welcomed Jorgen Brandt and Steve Guest from the Operational WG.

1. **Agenda**

The Chairman introduced the Agenda, which had been circulated the week prior, and it was agreed.

1. **Purpose of the Meeting**

There was some discussion about the purpose of the meeting as the Chairman had emailed the attendees on 7th January 2015 affirming his intention not to discuss the size of the document, which was agreed to be too large by the entire VTS committee at VTS38. However, informal discussions between the Chairman and Editor had indicated the potential for a number of sections to be removed in line with the new IALA document structure and in line with the comments for those sections. Steve Guest expressed his concern that this was not consistent with the email brief dated 7th Jan.

Peter Eade commented that this was an unilateral discussion between Chairman and Editor and that if this were to be the approach of the meeting, all parties should have been allowed to prepare similar recommendations.

It was agreed that the purpose of the inter-sessional meeting was to complete Section 1 and to discuss the comments raised by the members of VTS Committee but **not** to remove any sections.

1. **Status of the draft V-128 revision 4**

The Chairman presented a power point slide which provided the historical background to V-128 and then Jens-Christian Pedersen (Editor) presented the latest draft including the comments raised by the VTS Committee.

Document Revision Table (Page 2)

The “Page/Section Revised” and “Requirements for Revision” columns were edited to reflect the work undertaken by TWG.

“The Council” recommends section on Page 3 was discussed and in particular the final paragraph referring to VTS training.

1. **Discussion of the remaining comments**

The Chairman proposed that we finalise Annexe 1 and then proceed to the remainder of the comments. Firstly the “Requirement for Revision,” at the very start of the document, was discussed. It was pointed out that the Reason for Revision was to make the document more User Friendly following feedback from users. Peter Eade and Steve Guest stated that they did not believe that this objective had been achieved.

1. **Continuation of the Section 1 drafting**

Peter Eade proposed that the “References” section 1.2.3 on Page 16 be edited into a single list covering the entire document rather than having a list for each Annex however Dave Turnage pointed out that this had already been discussed and that the VTS Committee had agreed that the list would remain; editing these lists into one single list would take significant time.

The “Clarifications” section in para 1.2.2 was edited to include a description of the purpose of the Document being a common source of information.

Section 1.3 was discussed and the WG briefly examined Recommendation V-119 (Implementation of Vessel Traffic Services).

**Lunch from 1245pm to 1340pm**

Structure of V-119 was discussed further in the context of para 1.3.1 and the title sub-paragraph was changed from “Relating the System Technical Requirements from the Operational Requirements” to

“Deriving the System Technical Performance Requirements from the Operational Requirements. This section was then edited to maintain consistency with V-119.

A significant discussion ensued around the words “system design” and the WG referred to V-119 which used the expression “Basic Functional Design”. The WG also discussed the use of the Basic, Standard and Advanced terminology when referring to VTS Systems – which is only referred to in RDF, Radar and Data Processing Annexes. The WG concluded that all references to Basic, Standard and Advanced should be removed from Section 1.

Significant discussions on the design process and it’s alignment with procurement, Risk Analysis and CBA. Dave Turnage drew a flip chart illustrating the stages of a project from operational requirement to supplier/design selection. He also provided a Visio diagram “Determination of Technical Requirements” and this was reviewed and amended to reflect the opinion of the WG. Dave Turnage took an action to continue this document overnight.

**Day 2 - Tue 13th Jan 2015**

09:00am – the WG convened and continued with Agenda Item 6.

Dave Turnage presented his latest version of “Determination of technical requirements“ Visio diagram. This was discussed and amended to reflect the opinion of the WG. The Editor then inserted the final Visio document into the text of para 1.3.1 of V-128. Further editing followed. And the WG felt that an operational requirements section should be the first paragraph of 1.3.1.

The operational requirements bullet point list was extracted from V-119 and pasted onto 1.3.1 and then discussed, reviewed, updated and edited.

1.3.2 Deriving the system level technical requirements

Discussion followed and then Steve Guest asked what our plans were for the remainder of the inter-sessional and the Chairman advised that we need to complete Section 1 and then review all the comments presented by the VTS Committee members and then review the entire document.

**Lunch at 1235pm to 1325pm**

Continued aligning the text with the flow chart devised by Dave Turnage, completing this task at 1435pm.

The WG then commenced para 1.4 “Determine High Level System Architecture” taking note of the comments received and then removing superfluous references in line with comments raised and the discussions generated such as IALA Guideline 1035 and IMO Resolution A.915(22). The Availability section was reviewed at length and amended as agreed.

The WG worked through the remaining sections for the remainder of the afternoon including the section dealing with Recording, Archiving and Replaying.

A number of tables were thought to be best removed from the document and referenced to a an external web site including Beaufort Scale, Classification of Tropical Cyclones, Air Density v Air Pressure, Gradient Wind Effect, International Environmental Standards. The WG discussed the implications but agreed it was, on balance, more appropriate to keep them with in the Recommendation.

The section on Equipment Approvals had also raise comments however again, the numerous EU Directives and associated IEC standards were felt to be relevant and they provided a vital source of information to setting up a VTS system.

**Break at 1630 for 10 minutes**

After the break the WG looked at 1.4.3 Design Installation and Maintenance Considerations

and removed a number of Climatic sections in line with comments received. The WG agreed to simplify the information in section 1.4.3 relating to climatic condition by referencing out to MIL STD 810G. As a result, the text was modified. However, quick review of MIL STD 810G indicated a need to check that the final draft of the text was consistent with this external reference.

Drafting of Annexe 1 completed.

Close for the day at 1800 and agreed to start at 0830 commencing with comments in radar section.

**Wed 14th Jan 2015**

The WG convened as agreed at 0830am

1. Update of sections 2 to 13 according to the remaining comments

Section 2 Radar Comments

Steve Guest made references to his comments regarding the removal of the words “integrators” from the introduction section and that the entire recommendation needed to be reviewed as it was aimed at VTS Authorities and Integrators and should be aimed purely at VTS Authorities. Steve Guest very concerned that the brief provided at VTS38 by Rene Hogendoorn and Dave Turnage was that the document was aimed at VTS Authorities **and Integrators.** A debate ensued during which the Chair re-iterated the original brief and this was not a new document but the 4th version of the original V-128. The end result was that the WG agreed that :

1. We had to move forward from the present and not argue about past decisions (consensus reached) by those attendees at the time.
2. The intended audience of the document was VTS Authorities only.

Steve Guest raised his comment that the Radar introduction section implied that shipboard radar was inferior to VTS radar and that VTS Authorities were being steered towards expensive VTS systems. Rene Hogendoorn and Jens-Christian Pedersen stated that the document does not prescribe a particular system.

Jorgen Brandt and Richard Aase proposed that we accept the situation and move on.

Steve Guest and Peter Eade expressed their significant concerns with the overall document and the Chairman reminded the WG that our inter-sessional task was to complete Annexe 1 and review comments and that further comments over and above this would have to be made at the next formal session (VTS39) in April 2015.

The Chairman reminded the WG that we should concentrate on the comments only.

Peter Eade noted that a significant number of comments raised the point that the terms “Basic, Standard and Advanced” were confusing and should be discussed. The Chairman stated that this only applies to the Radar, RDF and Data Processing sections. Steve Guest showed that the VTS Manual (2012) clearly applies the terms to VTS systems as a whole. It was pointed out that, at the time of revision of the VTS Manual, V-128 revision 3 was the current document and it was decided by the Committee that the VTS Manual should align with the existing recommendations. Peter Eade suggested that the terms should be replaced by Categories A, B and C for radar configurations in the new version of V.128 but Jens-Christian Pedersen stated that this would open a “Can of Worms”. Peter Eade stated that the terms were being wrongly applied throughout the VTS market and that whole systems were being named on the basis of the radar product used. The new version of V.128 would be an opportunity to correct this.

It was pointed out by the Chairman that the draft new revision no longer refers to these terms in the context of the VTS system as a whole, which makes the point a moot point.

The WG continued on with the document aligning the “Introduction” section of each Annexe with the introduction in the radar section such that they all follow the same format.

The WG continued working through all Annexes discussing the comments. All comments and suggested text discussed and accepted right through to Annexe 9 (Data Processing) where Steve Guest stated he had most concerns.

Rob Townsend (taking notes) left the meeting at 1320pm during Agenda Item 7.

The WG continued with the comments on the remaining sections 10 to 13 and finalised the draft with two issues remaining:

* Alignment of climatic conditions with the MIL standard
* Renumbering of all references; format of tables and removal of word “review” annotations

These issues will be addressed within the next two weeks and the final draft V-128 and the Minutes of Meeting will be distributed to all members of the VTS Committee.

The meeting completed the task of re-writing Chapter 1 of the document and reviewing comments relating to the other chapters. There was general agreement that Chapter 1 had been very significantly improved by the work of the Inter-sessional drafting group.

Peter Eade stated that he did not agree with the remainder of the document and the way that some comments were handled by the working group leadership.

His point was noted by the Chairman.