# TASK 1.3.1 Develop a Guideline on VTS Voice Communications, Phrases / Phraseology

VTS46-8.3.4

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| **Standard** | Vessel Traffic Services | | |
| **Topic Area** | VTS Communications | | |
| **Task** | Produce a Guideline on VTS Communication Phrases / Phraseology | | |
| **Objectives of the task** | To provide guidance to:   * Standardise VTS communication with the bridge team and allied services through the provision of clear, concise, and unambiguous communications that are timely, overcome differences in language, effective, and reduce the opportunity for misunderstanding. * Assist VTS Training organisations to incorporate the use of standard VTS phraseology into VTS course curriculums.   *(Describe the objective/s of the task)* | | |
| **Expected outcome** | A new IALA Guideline to compliment Recommendation R1012 ‐ VTS Communications.  *(Describe the expected outcome: e.g. Recommendation, Guideline or Other)* | | |
| **Compelling need** | Communication error is a significant causal factor in maritime incidents.  A key factor in achieving the full potential of VTS globally is the development of international standards for VTS Language to ensure effective communication, including structure and phraseology, which are suitable for both native and non-native English speakers.  The 2012 IALA VTS Symposium recognised a compelling need to establish stand‐alone communication procedures for VTS to facilitate clear and unambiguous transfer of information.  *(Describe briefly why this task should be included in the Work Programme)* | | |
| **Strategic Alignment**  *(See IALA Strategic Vision)* | **Goal**  G1 – Marine Aids to Navigation are developed and harmonised through international cooperation and the provision of standards.  **Strategy**  S1 - Develop standards suitable for direct citation by States, in areas deemed important by the General Assembly, and the related Recommendations and Guidelines.  S2 - Position IALA as the source of standards, knowledge, and expertise that will enable States to provide Marine Aids to Navigation, in accordance with relevant international obligations and recommendations.  S6 - Improve and harmonise the delivery of VTS globally and in a manner consistent with international conventions, national legislation and public expectations, to ensure the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to protect the environment. | | |
| **Scope** | **In Scope:**   * A document that is practical, limited in length and user friendly. * The document should:   + Provide the framework for adopting common phraseology in all communications.   + Provide examples of phraseology and procedure that are not contained exhaustive, but merely representative of phraseology in common use and for key situations.   + Where possible, be harmonised with other existing relevant documentation that provide communication guidance. It will review and supplement the IMO SMCP VTS section.   **Out of scope:**  *(Describe key items that are in scope/out of scope)* | | |
| **Brief and concise description of the work to be undertaken and programme mile­stones (where appropriate).** | Develop principles for VTS message construction  Develop a framework for the adoption of common phraseology for clear and unambiguous communication.  It should also provide fresh advice that is not only coaching new VTS personnel but guards against complacency with more experienced operators. | | |
| **Expected numbers of sessions for completion** | Session number:  45 46 47 48 49 50 51  X  X  X | | |
| **Committee notes** | **Origins** | * 2018-22 Work Programme | |
|  | **Agreed by session** | **TD#** | **Comments** |
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|  | **Approved by Council** | *(Council Session)* | *(Date)* |
|  | **Revision Notes:** |  | |