**Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1)** VTS58-7.2.9

**Input paper for the following Committee(s):** **Purpose of paper:**

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ARM  ENG  PAP  Input

DTEC VTS  Information

**Agenda item** [[2]](#footnote-2) 7.2

**Author(s)/Submitter(s)** Cover note – Secretariat // Remote Pilotage Initiative Correspondance - DanPilot

DanPilot's Remote Pilotage initiative

# Summary

This paper introduces a correspondence received by the Secretariat from DanPilot regarding their Remote Pilotage initiative. This project is a shore-based pilotage concept developed with the involvement of maritime stakeholders and the Danish Maritime Authority. The letter outlines the operational framework, safety measures and technical structure, drawing parallels with existing VTS and MASS domains. The initiative aims to enable remote pilotage without compromising navigational safety.

## Purpose of the document

This document is provided for the Committee’s consideration and invites it to take action as it deems appropriate regarding the project. The correspondence proposes collaboration akin to existing work on MASS and other areas.

## Related documents

VTS58-7.2.9.1 DanPilot - Remote Pilotage initiative correspondence

VTS58-7.2.9.2 IMPA comments on Danpilot's Remote Pilotage Initiative

# Background

DanPilot, Denmark’s national pilotage provider, has developed and tested a Remote Pilotage concept that relocates pilotage operations from vessels to a dedicated Navigation Control Centre (NCC). The project has been developed in close cooperation with industry partners (e.g., Maersk and Danelec) and with guidance from the Danish Maritime Authority. In accordance with Danish Executive Order No. 401/2024 and industry trials, the initiative is based on four integrated elements: secure technical infrastructure, structured training and auditing, best practice procedures and a robust digital communication platform. DanPilot has conducted remote acts with and without a pilot onboard under a regulated framework.

# Discussion

The concept demonstrates alignment with the broader work programme sharing core themes with both VTS and MASS, including shore-based decision support, digital redundancy and secure data exchange. DanPilot expresses its intention to cooperate transparently by sharing operational data, safety assessments and procedural insights. Proposed avenues for collaboration with joining or initiating work in this domain through joint working groups, observer roles or task group formation.

IALA has no formal position on the merits of remote pilotage and is not seeking to promote or oppose such developments. However, interest in the topic is becoming increasingly common, illustrated by IMPA’s efforts, including a dedicated study. Parallel activity such as this, suggests a growth in interest by members, relevant NGO’s and Sister Organizations, indicating a shared recognition of the need to explore and develop technical and procedural solutions by supporting and providing guidance in areas aligned with IALA’s technical expertise.

# Action requested of the Committee

The VTS and DTEC committees are requested to:

1. Note DanPilot’s Remote Pilotage initiative.
2. Take action as deemed appropriate

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)