VTS57-8.3.2

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Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**□** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **X**  Input

**□** ENAV **X** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item 8.3

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 1.3.1

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Intersessional Group 1.3.1

# information on intersessional meeting by Task 1.3.1 Develop guidance on VTS digital communications (operational aspects)

# background

During VTS57 it was decided that an intersessional meeting was needed to work on use cases which describe VTS functions from an operational perspective. It is de intention of WG 1 to finalize the Guideline VTS Digital Communication in VTS58. The use cases are intended to come in an annex of the Guideline of VTS Digital Communications (Operational Perspective) as discussed in VTS57 by Taskgroup 1.3.1.

All use cases will not be completely worked out in VTS58, therefore a dedicated page will be made on the IALA website under the tap “topical matters”. All developed use cases will be published on this page and new use cases can be added.

These use cases have to be worked out by the different technical working groups [TG2.5.2, TG2.8.1] working with the technical specifications for some of the services that together with other means will enable VTS digital communication. Hence members from TG 2.5.2 and TG2.8.1 also were invited.

The intersessional meeting was held in Malmö on 1 and 2 July 2025.

Participants of China MSA has reported that they want to participate via an on-line connection. Unfortunately the participants of China MSA were unable to join the meeting. The Working Group sent the proceedings of the intersessional meeting at the end of the first and second day.

# Discussion

The first day of the meeting started with a presentation of Mr Hans Huisman presented a concept of operation based on the work from TG1.3.1 in VTS57 and gave some suggestions how to proceed with drawings and of the operational functions of VTS and the use cases.

Afterwards the participants proceeded with the discussions about the services belonging to the “VTS Information Functions”. The use cases were reviewed and a drawing was made to clarify how the services are going from VTS to ship and from ship to VTS.

And the group also developed use cases for “VTS Reporting Service”;

* Use case 1; Vessel makes initial contact and receives reporting requirements
* Use case 2; Vessel sends complete report
* Use case 3; Vessel sends report with errors
* Use case 4; Vessel sends updated report

“VTS Information Service”:

* Use case 1; VTS informs vessel of the special circumstances with unknown time frame
* Use case 2; VTS informs vessel of the special circumstances with time frame
* Use case 3; VTS sends information with no time frame
* Use case 4; VTS request information by using form
* Use case 5; Vessel sends information to VTS
* Use case 6; Vessel asks question from VTS
* Use case 7; Vessel request information from VTS

The diagrams were updated and will be presented in VTS58. Before we finalize the guideline we need to do the following during the VTS58 Committee Meeting:

* Check terminology for received information and opened the message.
* Check operational manuals and/or definition acknowledgement
* Review title of use case 1 “receiving requirements for report (instead of reporting requirements).
* Review diagram in the guideline; remove “voyage plan information service”.
* Describe “planning functions” including Traffic Clearance Service and Slot Management Service
* Describe “Traffic functions”

“Slot Management”

China MSA provided the intersessional Working Group with a draft description of “Slot Management Service” and two use cases to this service. China MSA also provided the intersessional Working Group with 12 other suggestion for use cases.

Due to extended discussions about the services of the “VTS information functions” the intersessional Working Group had no time left to discus the input of China MSA and postponed the input of China MSA to VTS58. The input of China MSA is attached in the Annex of this report.

Participants at the meeting were:

| **Name** | **Affiliation** |
| --- | --- |
| Maiju Kaski | Fintraffic |
| Juho Pitkanen | Fintraffic |
| Ramin Miraftabi | Fintraffic |
| Wim Smets | Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services (B) |
| Malin Dreijer | Norwegian Coastal Administration |
| Milou Aerts | Port of Rotterdam |
| Hans Huisman | MARIN |
| Remi Hoeve | Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement (NL) |

# Action requested of the Committee

**The Committee** is requested to:

* Note the work done during the intersessional meeting in Malmö.

Annex:







