



11 – IALA TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

11.3 – VTS

Proposed amendment to the draft VTS Manual 6th edition

Note by the Secretariat

1. BACKGROUND

IALA has agreed to participate in a series of work packages to support the EfficienSea 2 project. This work is focused on the development of the VHF Data Exchange System and the Maritime Cloud.

As part of the work for the VHF Data Exchange System a communications strategy to promote broad understanding of the VDES and the development process has been identified. Part of that work is to develop text on VDES for inclusion in both the IALA Navguide and the IALA VTS Manual.

2. PROPOSAL

Noting the imminent publication of the 2016 edition of the VTS Manual at the IALA VTS Symposium there is an opportunity to provide an introduction to the VDES.

It is proposed that an addition could be made to the VTS Manual setting out the developing situation with VDES. This could be achieved by deleting one sentence and adding in a short paragraph of text in Chapter 11, section 1104 – Radio Communications (page 78).

Delete – the last sentence of the second paragraph of section 1104: *‘New developments will provide even more digital functionalities in the future’*

Insert – new text:

‘Developments in digital data exchange are expected to improve overall maritime communications capabilities. At the World Radio Conference 2015 the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) identified 6 frequencies in the VHF maritime mobile band for the use of digital data transfer. These frequencies form part of the developing VHF Data Exchange System (VDES). With the ability to group the new frequencies together to provide a larger band for data transfer, the VDES will encompass AIS and provide enhanced digital data functionality in the future. IALA is working within an international framework to ensure the development of the VDES meets the needs of IALA members, which includes support for VTS use cases.’

3. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Approve the changes to the VTS Manual related to the development of the VHF Data Exchange System.