

Innovation and Technology

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) operates a network of aids to navigation that includes traditional lighthouses, beacons, buoys, radar transponder beacons (racons), Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) stations, a vessel traffic service and ship reporting system (REEFVTS), automatic identification system (AIS) stations and broadcasting tide gauges and current meters.

AMSA has a rich history of being at the forefront of technology – from the early use of unmanned acetylene powered beacons in 1913, the establishment of DGPS stations in the early 1990's through to the establishment of AIS stations in 2004.

In 1996 AMSA, in partnership with Maritime Safety Queensland, established a ship reporting system for the Torres Strait and Great Barrier Reef (REEFREP). In 2004 REEFREP was upgraded to Australia's first Coastal Vessel Traffic Service (REEFVTS). REEFVTS will continue to be upgraded with the latest technologies to enhance situational awareness and the quality of shipping traffic information.

AMSA is committed to using new technologies to improve the availability and efficiency of its aids to navigation network, for example through the use of low maintenance modular fibreglass towers, LED lights and remote monitoring of critical sites.

