

Inland END Harmonization Group

5th Annual Meeting

Brazil DHN, Niteroi, Brazil

10-12 October 2007

Draft Minutes – Version 4.1

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Co-Chairs Tony Niles (USA) and Bernd Birkhuber (Austria) welcomed all those attending. Approximately 46 persons were present for at least a portion of the three-day meeting. Annex A provides a List of Attendees.

Co-chairs made mention of the excellent logistics/meeting arrangements by DHN, and looked forward to their participation in this meeting.

2. Bernd Birkhuber (BB) gave a brief **Overview about IEHG**. More detailed explanations of what occurs in USA, Europe and Russia were given by:

USA – Tony Niles [see USA – USACE.ppt]

Europe – Jorg Vogel [see Inland ECDIS_ Europe.ppt]

Russia – Vladimir Sekachev [see IENC in Russia – 1 and - 2.ppt]

3. BB provided an explanation of the **legal authority, structure, organization, and procedures** of IEHG. [see “Niteroi 2007.ppt”]

a) IEHG participation IHO TSMAD

BB noted that a formal letter was received from IHB on 27 Sep 2007, formally inviting IEHG to participate in IHO TSMAD meetings (see TSMAD invite.doc). At least one member of IEHG Core Group, or a Member designated by the Core Group will try to attend. Lee Alexander (LA) pointed out that in addition to Inland ENC issues related to North America, Europe, and Russia, matters pertaining to South America can also be communicated.

b) New IHO WG on Hydrography and Cartography of Inland Waters

- LA provided a brief background on the establishment of the WG (see IHO CL)

- Hugo Gorziglia (IHB) emphasized that there is no competition between this new WG and IEHG. Also, that there is an overlap of inland and maritime vessels on some waterways. He invited IEHG to contribute to the work of this group.

- Frode Klepsvick (Norway) pointed out there are other legal frameworks that are not part of IHO (inland waters) that need to be addressed. As such, this new IHO WG will primarily focus on policy – not technical issues.

- Otto Volker (Cledir) gave an example of why this occurred on the Rio Parana.

- Michael Bergman (Jeppesen) suggested that the pace and conditions of IEHG are different than IHO. In many instances, IEHG must be receptive to change and new requirements.

- Brazil DHN and Corps of Engineers are the current IEHG members who also are on the new WG. DHN may volunteer to chair the WG but wishes to first consult other South American countries, especially Argentina who first proposed the establishment of the WG.

Action: BB to send letter to IHO informing them that IEHG wishes to contribute to the work of this new WG. Letter to be sent within two weeks.

5. South American River/Inland Waterways

A series of very informative PP presentations about South American rivers/inland waterways were given by:

Brazil DHN – Capt. Antonio Garcez (Brazil – DHN.pp)

Brazil National Agency for Waterway Transportation - Alex Oliva (Brazil – Waterways Directorate.ppt)

Overview of South American Waterways - Otto Duarte Volker (IENCs in South Am. #1 & #2)

Maritime Authority Suriname (MAS) - Naomi Eersel (Suriname – MAS.ppt)

6. Participating Company Involvement in Inland ENC

a) Participating companies involved in the production/distribution of IENCs were asked to provide a brief overview:

SevenCs.ppt – Eric Rottman, Also, see description of SevenCs IENC tools/software

Jeppesen Marine.ppt – Michael Bergman

CARIS – Paul Cooper [get notes]

ESRI.ppt – Rafael Ponce

Cledir.ppt – Otto Duarte Volker

IIC Technologies.ppt – John Conyon

Transas ZAO.pp – Vladimir Sekachev

b) Co-Chair Tony Niles (TN) asked those from each of participating companies to provide some brief comments on the likes/dislikes of participating in IEHG:

Eric Rottman (SevenCs) – Keep doing what we are doing; likes to work in this type of working group environment; faster movement than IHO; contributions of private companies can be quite good. No negatives.

Michael Bergman (Jeppesen Marine) – Likes unrestricted participation of all stakeholders. Suggestion: there are opportunities of private companies providing infrastructure help (facilities, resources, etc.). No negatives, but he does believe that we need to involve more customers.

Rafael Ponce (ESRI) – Likes the fresh, open approach; IEHG is dynamic and actually working together in cooperation; participants have freedom of speech. No negatives.

Otto Duarte Volker (Cledir) – Has similar views to Rafael; believes that IEHG is definitely something worthwhile; sees no negatives.

John Conyon (IIC) – Sees commonality of ideas and consistency; working together in harmony leads to benefits for common standard. IEHG would benefit from greater participation by end users.

Vladimir Sekachev (Transas ZAO) – Very important that Transas takes part; Encoding Guide is quite useful; likes the open exchange of point-of- views with all parties.

Peter Kluytenaar presently being the only “end-user” participating, urged the companies to look for, stimulate “educated” end-users under their customers that are willing to also participate in the discussions and provide IEHG with the much needed feed-back.

7. Communication outside of meetings:

E-mail

- Will continue to be the primary means of communication.

- POCs are important (e.g., best e-mail addresses)

OEF

- A good site to post information, but not always the best method of communication
- Is complementary to personal exchange of ideas/opinions.
- Use of other languages besides English is fine. Some members have the capability to provide translation.

It is also important to keep those not directly involved in the work of IEHG informed of activities/status. This, too, can be done via the OEF.

8. IEHG Members and Participants

BB described what is written in the Terms of Reference (TOR). He explained the difference between Members and Participants. A list of IEHG 5 Meeting Attendees was circulated for update and correction.

9. Terms of Reference (TOR)

Following a brief discussion, minor adjustments were made to the TOR:

3. Some concern about the term “Authority”. “Recognition” is a better term. Some similar concern about the term “competent group,” although the term is needed for acceptance among European countries.

- 4. b. – Need to add “South America” and “Brazil”.

A formal vote was made on the updated TOR (as of 10 October 2007). It was unanimously approved.

Follow-on Action: Vice Chair and Tech Coordinator from South American region will be nominated by Brazil after the IEHG 5 meeting, following consultation with other South American countries.

10. IENC Standards

a) Product Specification, Ed. 2.0 - Eric Rottman gave an update on the status. [see IENC Product_Specification.ppt]. No changes since last year.

- b) IEHG Encoding Guide (Version 2.1.1) - Denise La Due gave a brief overview.

11. Status of implementation

Europe

Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR) - adopted the European Inland ECDIS Standard Ed. 2.0 (including IENC Product Spec 2.0) on 23 November 2006.

European Union (EU) has not yet formally adopted the European Inland ECDIS Standard Ed. 2.0 (including the IENC Product Spec 2.0), pending translation into all EU languages (~20), but the standard has already been agreed by the RIS Committee.

Danube Commission – expect adoption by December 2007.

USA - US Army Corps of Engineers adopted the IENC Product Spec 2.0 in November 2006. Implementation/conversion will begin in early 2008.

Russia - IENC Prod Spec 2.0 expected to be adopted in 2008

Jeppesen Marine (now includes C-Map) – Will have subscription contracts to ensure that customers have most recent edition (both for IENC data and applications).

Transas ZAO – Will make necessary changes to Inland ECS and ECDIS

SevenCs – 2.0 has been implemented into Kernel and Production tools and will be released in Dec 2007. For a complete description, see SevenCs recent press release.

CARIS – [LA will contact CARIS (Paul Cooper) for an update]

12. Maintenance of Encoding Guide

Change requests – proposals to current edition/version can be adopted within 6 weeks

New versions (e.g., 1.2 → 1.3) published once per year.

Edition 1, Version 3 = 1.3

Working version (e.g. 1.3.1) published as needed based on requested changes

Edition 1, Version 3, Sub-version 1 = 1.3.1

Working versions will not be transmitted outside of IEHG

Next edition (e.g., 1.n → 2.0) only when major changes are needed (S-57 → S-100)

- e.g., significant changes to minimum content

Official Document (after this meeting) is 1.3

Working Document (used during this meeting) is 1.2.1

13. Change Requests to Encoding Guide

EC 1.2.1 → EC 1.2.2

Reviewed, discussed and updated 25 separate Change Requests (CRs):

[see CR folder]

14. Differences between Feature Catalogue and Encoding Guide

Currently, there are changes to the Encoding Guide that are not contained in the Feature Catalogue (i.e., they are not in parallel). For the most part, it is the Feature Catalogue that companies used to update their software. But, there is up to a one year lag for the Feature Catalogue to be adopted by national authorities. This affects both IENC production tools and Inland ECDIS/ECS systems.

It was agreed that

- Encoding Guide Ed. 1.2.2 will be available within 2 wks after IEHG5

- Encoding Guide Ed. 1.3 will be incorporated into Feature Catalogue 2.1 within 2-3 months.

A reconciliation was made between current versions of the EG and FC (for 7 items).

[see Contradiction_Attribute.restrn.pdf]

15. Open ECDIS Forum

There are two websites that deal with Inland ENC matters:

1) www.openecdis.org (OEF)

- is a register for all S-57 data producer codes (maritime and inland)

- hosts the IEHG Discussion Forum

- location for posting Change Requests (CRs)

- contains the current edition of the *IENC Encoding Guide*

2) <http://ienc.openecdis.org>

- is the official location of the European Inland ECDIS Standard
- contains the IENC Product Specification, including
 - the official version of the IENC Feature Catalogue and
 - the official version of the IENC Encoding Guide

It was agreed that there needs to be better linkage between the two sites in general and more specific that the official version as well as working versions of the Encoding Guide will reside on ienc.openecdis.org with a link to these documents on the OEF.

For the OEF

1. As a minimum need to have e-mail notification for discussions, including both current and new topics. Potentially, this capability is already available in the “User Profile.”
2. Look into the possibility to provide users with option to receive and answer to postings by email.
3. Establish links between **open.ecdis** ← → **ienc.openecdis.org**.
 - Also need links between documents located on one site to the other site (i.e., only want to maintain a document in one location, but be accessible from both)
5. Delete any duplicate documents; provide link to [ienc.openecdis](http://ienc.openecdis.org), but keep Change Requests
 - [ienc.openecdis](http://ienc.openecdis.org) – post all documents
5. Look into either having two separate folders (CRs and Discussion Forum) or
 - establish two separate discussion groups, one for IEHG general discussion and another for IENC change requests
 - use “tree structure”

16. IENC Register

- Want to begin using, but beforehand, need to determine what is status of the IHO Registry as agreed to by IHO CHRIS 18 (next month).
 - Need clear statement (commitment) that CHRIS18 approves the Registry, and will not make dramatic changes to the concept in the near future.
 - Need to be assured that sufficient backup arrangements for the IHO Registry are available
- IEHG is committed to use the IHO Registry. We believe that is will be worthwhile since S-100 seems to fit our ideas much better than S-57. Ideally, IEHG will validate the use of the IHO Registry, and will contribute to any further development. The Register may serve to answer questions with regard to history in transition periods between versions. However, manufacturers will primarily rely on the Feature Catalogue. Regardless, IENC Register needs to become a part of the already established CR → EG → FC process.

17. Standard for transmission of water level information

[See BB’s Water level.ppt]

- Focus will be on suitable data exchange format and transmission method taking into account local conditions (e.g., AIS binary message, NtS via 3G mobile communication)
- Water level information is important for Europe, but not a high priority for IEHG at this time.
- Need to start new discussion group on OEF; perhaps have a technical workshop on topic.

- Europe will go ahead and develop a standard content format. Other Regions are invited to participate.
- Corps of Engineers is interested in further technical exchange, to include some discussion about water level models.

18. Upcoming Events

IHO CHRIS 19th Meeting (Rotterdam, 5-9 Nov 2007)

3rd ECDIS Stakeholders Forum (Rotterdam, 7-8 Nov 2007)

New IHO Working Group on Hydrography and Cartography of Inland Waters (TBD)

Technical Workshop on Hydro Survey for Fluvial Navigation (Iquitos, Peru, 14-16 Nov 2007)

European Inland ECDIS Expert Group, (Bratislava, 25 Oct 2007)

HYPACK 2008 Conference, Savanna, GA, USA, Jan 2008

Canadian Hydrographic Conference (Victoria, BC, May 2008)

19. Summary of Follow-on Actions

1. Draft Minutes to Meeting (Lee)
2. Send letter to IHO re: new IHO WG (Bernd and Tony)
3. Encoding Guide;
 - 1.2.1 → 1.2.2 (Denise will consider 2.0 of FC)
 - 1.2.1 → 1.3 (Denise will lead 2.1 of FC and Prod Spec)
4. Send Translation of EG to:
 - Portuguese version – DHN Brazil
 - Spanish version – Otto Duarte Volker
5. Update OEF and IENC.OpenECDIS (Lee and Eric)
6. Establish a discussion group on the OEF for Water Level Information (Lee)
7. Establish a list of IEHG Members and Participants (in pdf); post on OEF and ienc.openecdis (Lee)
8. Establish a Discussion Forum on Exchange Sets (Lee and Peter)
9. For Change Request Forms, need to: (Bernd)
 - include South America on form
 - indicate/identify if a CR affects the Feature Catalogue
 - determine a way to track past and present changes (Peter).
9. Designate a Technical Coordinator and Core Group Member from South America (Brazil DHN)

20. Date/Location of Next Meeting

University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA

- 3 days (M-W or W-F)
- late September – early October 2008
- Lee Alexander will organize/host.
- It will be difficult to match Brazil DHN venue and hospitality!