

Digital production of German paper charts for foreign waters

The portfolio of German paper charts covers the European waters including the Baltic, the North Sea and the Mediterranean. One principal method to produce German charts for foreign waters is to be a Printer of INT- or national charts produced by other Hydrographic Offices. This has been based for many years on the adoption of colour separated printed foils. The laborious and time consuming method is now substituted by a digital workflow. The LORIK production software of the French company Lorienne used for is a hybrid system: Raster repromats received from different European HO's are superimposed with the individual elements of the German make in added vector layers. The full set of vectorised INT1 symbology is available for chart continuation. After completion of the chart design the direct transfer to the "computer to plate" printing facilities is fully supported.

The system reduces the average production time for a chart to less than a quarter of the traditional methods. To date, about 70 different charts are already produced digitally by means of this system. It is planned to extend its use to the vast majority of German chart for foreign waters within the next two years – which is of course dependent from the availability of digital repromats for the affected charts. For areas where no suitable repromats are available, foils of the former issues of the charts have been scanned and imported into LORIK software.