

**11th CHRIS MEETING
IHB, Monaco, 16-19 November 1999**

**4th WEND Meeting
Sydney, Australia, 27-29 January 1999**

SUMMARY

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Peter EHLERS and the IHB was represented by RAdm. Neil GUY. The IHB is the Secretariat for the WEND Committee. The Australian Hydrographer, Cdre Bob WILLIS, hosted the Meeting and RAdm Chris RITCHIE, Maritime Commander, RAN officially opened the Meeting.

Many issues of importance were considered by the Meeting as the production and the distribution of ENC is now reaching a crucial stage. In addition, the style and progress of the various RENCs, and the relationships of the RENCs with the WEND and other IHO Committees were discussed. It was announced that the North European RENC would be represented by PRIMAR, which would operate from Stavanger Norway under the aegis of the UK Hydrographic Office and the Norwegian Hydrographic Service. Sixty-one ENC cells would be available from 20 January and the service would be provided free of charge on 1 February until it became fully operational from 1 July 1999. By the end of 1999, there should be 956 cells available. The stage of development of other RENCs was noted. It was possible that a 'virtual' type RENC could be formed in East Asia and consideration be given to one in the Australasian region. Some Member States may have a problem or lack the necessity to form RENCs at this stage such as North and South Americas.

A number of projects and programmes were added to the knowledge of ENC and ECDIS use such as the BAFEGIS (Baltic Ferry) Project, ECHO Project (now completed) and the SHARED Programme of "dual fuel" use of ENC and RNCs which is to be extended to 13 Member States. Technical issues relating to the production and distribution of ENC were discussed and included matters such as:

- the apparent disparity between ENC Quality Assurance tools;
- the use of the term 'ENC';
- the relationship between RENCs and WEND;
- pricing and steps that can be taken in the event of a user defaulting on payments that are regarded as safe for navigation;
- the role of the IHB in ENC promotion;
- membership by a Member State in more than one RENC;
- projects such as The Marine Electronic Highway;
- relationships with private industry and,
- interim measures until adequate ENC coverage is available.

It was decided that a workshop would be organized by the IHB during 1999 on ENC updating.

