

13th CHRIS MEETING
17-19 September 2001, Athens, Greece

URGENT FUNDING REQUIREMENT FOR C&SMWG

Introduction

1. Amongst other things, the IHO exists to establish standardised hydrographic products and services in support of maritime safety. Ensuring that official hydrographic data is properly, safely and consistently presented to the mariner in an ECDIS is therefore a fundamental IHO responsibility. This is why the IHO Colours and Symbols Maintenance Working Group (C&SMWG) has been established.
2. The 12th CSMWG meeting was held at the IHB 12-15 September 2001 (see CHRIS 13/14.2B). As well as addressing a large number of important technical items, the meeting considered the future commitments of the WG and prepared a new work programme (included in CHRIS 13/14.2B).

Discussion

3. Unlike any other IHO working group, the C&SMWG can only achieve a large part of its activities through the use of external agencies and parties with specialist skills and capabilities. These agents are paid under contract and report to the WG through the Chairman and the WG Technical Coordinator. Until now, these contracted activities have been funded directly by a small group of M/S (primarily Canada, estimated to have contributed more than \$US1M, together with earlier contributions from Australia, Germany, UK and USA totalling about \$US0.5M). Other funding has come from the proceeds of the sales of the IHO Presentation Library (PresLib). The PresLib is priced at \$US2,000 per copy. Approximately 60 copies have been sold.
4. The C&SMWG is facing a financial crisis in the very near future. Individual M/S who previously funded WG activities individually can no longer devote significant funds to what is actually a collective IHO commitment that benefits many M/S either directly or indirectly. Meanwhile, the Presentation Library fund stands at less than \$US 30,000 with little prospect of any growth.
5. C&SMWG work items have been carefully examined by the WG and prioritised. The high priority items must be completed before a new edition of the PresLib that incorporates a growing number of deferred amendments can be issued. Medium and low priority items must be achieved if the IHO is to continue to regulate and develop the display and presentation of ENC's in ECDIS. It should be noted that there is continuous pressure being placed on Type Approval Authorities, and hence the C&SMWG to ensure that the PresLib and its contents remain current and relevant. If the IHO is unable or unwilling to undertake this role, then it will inevitably pass to another authority or organisation.
6. A copy of the proposed C&SMWG work programme is included as Annex A to CHRIS13/14.2B. It is estimated that the immediate high priority commitments (from now to

May 2002) will require approximately \$US40,000. Continuation work (medium and low priority) over subsequent years is estimated at \$US60,000 per annum.

7. After lengthy consideration, the WG can only identify three realistic sources of potential funding – limited project funding from the EU, sales of new editions of the Pres. Lib., and direct financial support from the IHO budget.

8. The WG will attempt to obtain some funds from the EU. This will be pursued by the Chairman through BSH (Germany) supported by the IHB. However, such funding must be project based and to be successful it will need to identify specific, politically acceptable benefits to EU members. This may be difficult, given the obvious global rather than European context of the work involved. As such, funding is not guaranteed, may be slow to obtain and will not ensure a continuous flow of funds.

9. It may be possible to levy further charges for the sale of subsequent new editions of the PresLib. But, it should be noted that sales of revised editions are unlikely to reach the levels of the initial sales of the PresLib (about 60) and a new edition of the PresLib is unlikely to be published until late 2002. In any case ECDIS manufacturers consider that the purchase price of the PresLib is already excessively high, particularly in comparison with other technical specifications and it therefore seems unlikely that prices for new editions could be set at much more than a level that provides a partial recovery of direct administrative costs of production and distribution. This means that funding from sales of the PresLib will always be insufficient to fund anticipated activities.

10. The only option that will ensure adequate and reliable funding for the continuing operation of the C&SMWG and its activities is for the IHO to make an appropriate financial allocation under the relevant IHO Work Programme. At present there is no IHO funding at all for C&SMWG activity conducted under the relevant IHO program. It is acknowledged that IHO funding can only occur at the expense of other programs or activities. However, given the important and fundamental nature of the work, this is considered to be unavoidable.

Conclusion

11. In the absence of additional funding the work of the C&SMWG, and hence IHO involvement in the presentation and display of charting information in ECDIS, will cease in less than nine months.

12. Primary funding by IHO is the only way to ensure continuation of the essential work of C&SMWG and its direct support to ECDIS development and implementation.

Action Required of CHRIS

13. The CHRIS is requested to:

- a. **agree** that the work of the C&SMWG must continue,
- b. **seek** urgent action from the IHB to obtain changes to the IHO budget allocation to ensure funding for the C&SMWG work programme.