

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

**STATUS REPORT ON VIRTUAL RENC DEVELOPMENT IN THE MBSHC AREA
(by Italy)**

Background

- ?? In 1999 (XI MBSHC), Italy proposed the establishment of a Virtual RENC for the MBS region.
- ?? The XI MBSHC Conference decided to consider the suggestion and adopted the Recommendation 2 that tasked Italy to prepare a detailed technical proposal for the establishment of a Mediterranean Virtual RENC as an operational alternative solution to the NE-RENC.
- ?? An MBS VRENC ad hoc meeting was arranged (Trieste, 9/11/00) with the participation of 18 Nations. It was agreed a list of actions.
- ?? One action was to set up a North Adriatic VRENC Pilot Project between Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. Two meetings has been arranged (Trieste, 23-24/04/01 and 2-3/07/01).
- ?? July 2001, Italy redrafted the proposal and prepared a Memorandum of Understanding to be considered by MS wishing to participate on the establishment of the MBS VRENC.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL

Presupposes

The VRENC proposal is in line with the WEND Committee evaluation of the problems and its recommendations as pointed out in the IHO CL 14/2000 and in the related recently approved WEND resolution.

Problem related to the establishment of the WEND System

ENC production situation is unsatisfactory. Additional efforts are necessary to cover congested areas/harbour approaches in various parts of the world. This problem can only be solved if additional capacity for the ENC production is accomplished.

WEND Committee solutions and recommendations

- ?? encourage Member States to give higher priority to the production of ENC data, and the provision of adequate ENC services.
- ?? request that RHCs report annually to the WEND Committee about the progress made on the establishment of the WEND system.
- ?? request that RHCs should address the needs for and promotion of ENC production in their regions.
- ?? Promotion of ENC production
 - a. regional IHO bodies should intensify their efforts to promote the production of ENCs in their region. This should not be left to individual Member States to do.
 - b. a better overview about the needs and priorities of ENC production is necessary to identify the existing gaps and discuss possibilities how to fill them.
 - c. The Regional Hydrographic Commissions, where they exist, should form RENC Committees to promote ENC production and the formation of a RENC.

The Virtual RENC proposal for the Mediterranean area

The main aim of the VRENC project is to produce a prototype delivery service which is capable of being expanded into a full commercial network supporting the three actors involved in the overall process:

- ?? Producers (HOs),
- ?? Distributors (private manufacturers, HOs, etc),
- ?? Users (Mariners, land based VTS, etc).

Approach

To provide a firm basis for real future operations the planned development is based on commonly available transmission media, and international standards wherever they exist. Details of how this can be done will be defined by the relevant VRENC working groups.

The proposed delivery system is in harmony with IHO/WEND principles, in which HOs provide ENC data and updates to the regional database, in this case virtual because established through a digital network link of HO's single databases, which can then serve as the basis for distributors to provide data to ships. In this regional instance it shall be defined and developed under the aegis of the MBSHC, taking advantage of the established cohesion and synchrony derived from successful regional hydrographic programs.

VIRTUAL to emphasize that it's aim IS NOT the creation of independent physical infrastructures, but rather to extend and strengthen cooperation within the regional hydrographic community, dedicated to coordinating and assisting participating HOs in the field of ENC related activities.

VRENC North Adriatic Pilot project

Two meetings of the three participant country (Italy, Croatia and Slovenia) has been arranged at IMO/IMA, Trieste on 23-24 April 2001 and on 2-3 July 2001.

The pilot project began with:

- ?? The definition of the prioritised ENC portfolio for the area.

List of the paper nautical charts that will constitute the first source lot for the Electronic Nautical Chart (ENC) coverage.

Country	Number	Scale
Croatia	5	1:100000
	2	1:50000
	1	1:10000
Italy	1	1:250000
	3	1:100000
	1	1:50000
	2	1:25000
	3	1:7500
Slovenia	2	1:12000

?? Identification and set up of the requirements for ENC and update coverage (sources material digitisation, hardware/software tools, training and technical support).

Time schedule

End July 2001	Software delivery for ENC/S57 production and quality control.
End October 2001	S57 data Vectorisation
August/September 2001	ENC Production Course at IMA (1 month) (one Student fm Croatia and one fm Slovenia)
October 2001	Croatian and Slovenian Personnel Training on the job (Harmonisation, quality control and validation on the first priority chart of the Project) at the Italian Hydrographic Office (two weeks course)

MEDCHARTNET Project

An other action has been began for the identification of the technical requirements and the funding resources needed for the establishment of a Virtual Private network called MEDCHARTNET.

The MEDCHARTNET has the objective to provide a Mediterranean network for the exchange of ENC between HO's in order to facilitate the generation of functional and regionally harmonised products and their dissemination.

Tasks:

- ?? Enhancement of each HO's internal data management infrastructure.
- ?? Establishment of a regional network (VPN) between HO's for exchange of data.
- ?? Supply of Official navigation products to distributors.

Action for the next MBSHC Conference

The Conference planned for next week in Genova (Italy) will consider a proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Virtual RENC.