

**13<sup>th</sup> CHRIS MEETING**  
**17-19 September 2001, Athens, Greece**

**ELECTRONIC COMMERCE FOR NAUTICAL CHARTS**  
*(by Dave Enabnit, August 2001)*

United States (NOAA)

The United States (NOAA) reported at the 12<sup>th</sup> CHRIS meeting on its efforts to use electronic commerce between itself and its chart sales agents. It is being used to distribute lithographic charts, and to manage the assembly of Print on Demand charts in real-time and distribute those charts. This report describes progress made over the last year.

1. NOAA's electronic commerce system for nautical charts has been successfully operating for 1 year. Thirty percent of NOAA's chart agents order NOAA lithographic, Print on Demand, or NIMA charts using the site. Little effort has been made to encourage agents to use the site, so this voluntary acceptance is encouraging.
2. The site ([www.NauticalCharts.gov](http://www.NauticalCharts.gov)) converts orders for Print on Demand charts to assembly instructions for each chart and administrative information about each order. That information is automatically forwarded to NOAA's Print on Demand partner, OceanGrafix, LLC, for immediate manufacturing. Orders for other products, such as NOAA lithographic charts, are forwarded to the appropriate supplier for fulfillment.
3. The site uses Linux operating system, Apache web server, MySQL database, JAVA server edition, and HTML. It is run at a commercial Internet Service Provider site for 2.5K USD per year. It cost 500K USD to build and took 9 months. It operates as a business-to-business e-commerce site, but can accept a NOAA-defined, digital, XML "order" from chart agents. This XML input capability will permit chart agents to add Print on Demand charts to any retail shopping cart software they choose to use.
4. Products from any supplier can be added including products of other hydrographic offices if it is mutually desired. Orders taken on behalf of another hydrographic office would be forwarded to the hydrographic office producing the chart by e-mail, fax, XML message, or ftp in an agreed upon format. This flexibility could allow any hydrographic office to sell the charts of any other hydrographic office to authorized chart agents. Such mutual support among hydrographic offices could benefit mariners by improving the availability of charts and other navigation products. The CHRIS should discuss this matter and consider taking appropriate action
5. Hydrographic offices wishing to experiment with [www.NauticalCharts.gov](http://www.NauticalCharts.gov) may log on with any web browser using the User Name "guest", and the Password "p3rf3ct". Do not include the quote symbols. Orders placed under this User Name will not actually be sent.