

**15<sup>th</sup> CHRIS MEETING**  
**IHB, Monaco, 10-13 June 2003**

**PRIMAR STAVANGER STATUS REPORT**

**Primar Stavanger**

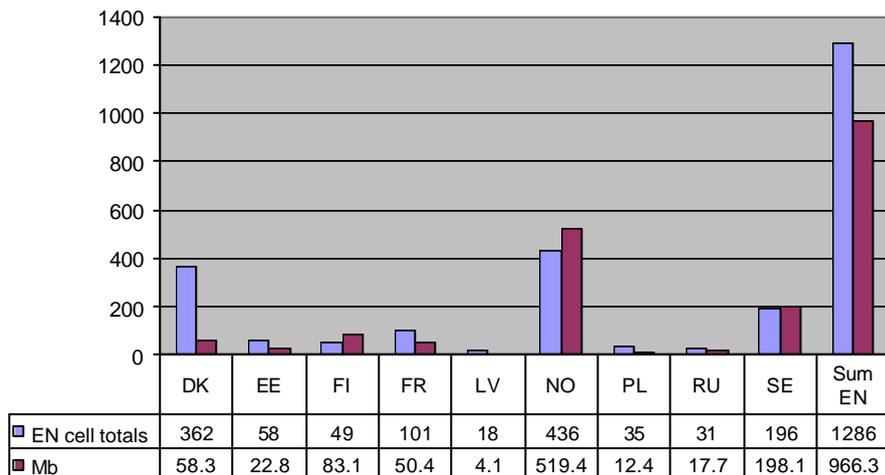
The Primar Stavanger international coordination centre for electronic navigational charts (ENCs) has put the Norwegian Hydrographic Service in the driving seat for this technology. A range of services aimed at other hydrographic offices as well as international producers and distributors make the centre an important player in a maritime world increasingly concerned with safe navigation.

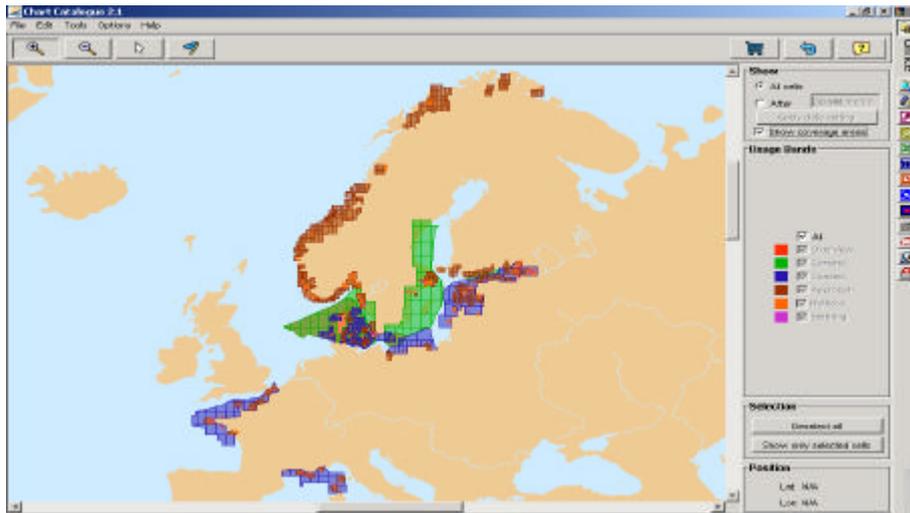
Operational responsibility for Primar Stavanger was taken over by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service on 1 April 2002. Today, it delivers official ENCs from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Poland, Russia and Sweden as well as Norway.

The centre currently provides the world's widest official ENC coverage. And it is alone in offering a virtual solution which gives all member countries full access to and control over their own data within a secure network. Automatic integrated operations check data quality, particularly in overlap zones. This provides additional security, allowing charts from different nations to work together without problems. Maintaining good control of the data is also important in ensuring that none of the available navigation systems have problems reading the formats.

**Status**

Volume and Number of Available ENCs 24 April 2003





**Increasing use of ENCs**

Today Primar Stavanger have 24 distributors in 11 countries serving all the major markets. Also more than 30 OEMs with 17 type approved ECDIS systems are compatible with the service. The Primar Stavanger service has in addition to this approved the distribution of ENCs in System ENC (SENC) format. Today C-Map has been approved as SENC Distributor, and we hope that other major chart players soon will follow.

PRIMAR Stavanger has experienced a significant growth during its first year of operation, and as of now operates the biggest consistent database of authorised ENCs in the world, approaching 1300 ENC cells and gradually increasing.

The number of ENCs from PRIMAR Stavanger in use onboard ships has increased from some 4500 to more than 12000 in the first year of operation. Still the pick-up of ENCs in the market is too slow and generally has been slower than many has anticipated. We strongly believe that SENC distribution is a key factor to the success of the ECDIS concept as a whole. Therefore our recent approval of SENC distribution in our operation (the first certified SENC distribution regime which adheres to IHO requirements) must be considered as a milestone in the implementation of the ECDIS concept.

However, SENC distribution is not enough. Achieving increased ENC coverage, focusing first on important sea lanes and harbours, must be given the highest priority in the future. In this context, the HELCOM declaration and the measures being taken to achieve timely coverage as well as use of ENC in the Baltic Sea Area, should stand as a good example of how this could be done.