

## S-121 Project Team – Information Paper

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chairman, S-121PT
<b>Related Documents:</b>	S-100, S-101
<b>Summary:</b>	The Maritime Boundary Product Specification is intended for the encoding and exchange of digital maritime boundary information; including maritime limits, zones and boundaries as described under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

<b>Chair:</b>	Mark Alcock, (Australia)
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Sebastien Durand, (Canada)
<b>Member States:</b>	Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Korea (Rep of), Netherlands, Sweden, UK, USA
<b>Expert Contributor Organisations:</b>	OGC, ESRI, IIC, IDON, UN-DOALOS,

## Background

Following a request by the United Nations General Assembly to

*“improve the existing Geographic Information System for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation, submitted in compliance with the Convention, and to give due publicity thereto, in particular by implementing, in cooperation with ... the International Hydrographic Organization, the technical standards for the collection, storage and dissemination of the information deposited, in order to ensure compatibility among the Geographic Information System, electronic nautical charts and other systems developed by these organizations.”*

A/RES/59/24

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and through it, the S100 Working Group has supported the establishment and operation of the S-121 Maritime Limits and Boundaries Project Team to develop an appropriate product specification to deliver on this request to the IHO from the United Nations.

The IHO S-121 Project Team has established a draft version of this standard. Initial implementations have been undertaken using one commercial and one open source GIS using test data from two Member States. It is desirable for the successful adoption of the standard by the largest number of States that the draft standard undergoes further testing and commercial suppliers produce tools that facilitate States to fulfil their treaty obligations.

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is an international not for profit organisation of more than 525 companies, government agencies, research organizations, non-governmental organizations and universities from around the world that develop implementation level geospatial data standards, and whose members develop geospatial software and systems. The OGC Innovation Program provides a collaborative agile process for solving geospatial challenges. Organisations (sponsors and technology implementers) come together to produce prototypes, develop demonstrations, provide best practices, and advance the future of standards.

The OGC Maritime Limits and Boundaries (MLB) Pilot Project is an initiative that aims to: reduce technology risk through accelerated development; expand the market by encouraging early adoption of the S-121 standard; mobilise new technologies through real world implementations; and provide a cost effective method for sponsors and participants to share expertise. This Innovation Program approach has been used successfully for several hundred cooperative developments in the past, including the development of the widely implemented Web Map Service standard that enables requests for geo-registered map images from one or more distributed geospatial databases.

OGC Pilot Projects bring together sponsors and Commercial Off-The-Shelf software companies to implement standards in real-world applications. Sponsors are any organisation interested in the advancement of the S-121 Pilot Project, through financial or in-kind contributions. Geoscience Australia and the Canadian Hydrographic Service have made commitments as sponsors, and are actively seeking collaborators.

There will be an OGC Pilot Project meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado, USA at the OGC Technical Committee/Planning Committee (TC/PC) meeting; this meeting will be accessible to IHO Members by teleconference. A small IHO delegation will also attend this meeting.

More information:

<http://www.s-121.com> - S-121 Project Team information and document distribution

<http://www.opengeospatial.org/ogc/programs/ip> - OGC Innovation Program information

<http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/mlbp> - OGC MLB Pilot Project information

<http://www.opengeospatial.org/event/1806tc> - OGC TC/PC meeting information

[https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact\\_id=78816](https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=78816) - OGC MLB Pilot Project Proposal Document

It is anticipated, that because of the utility of the S-121 standard, that all IHO Member States will likely want to use the standard in their interaction with UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) for the deposit of Maritime Limit and Boundary information and for other use cases such as due publicity and providing MLB information for concurrent use with Electronic Navigational Charts. IHO Member States are requested to review the S-121 documentation and the OGC Pilot Project Proposal to determine whether they (or industry within their countries) could contribute to or participate in the Pilot Project. The S-121PT requests that the HSSC promulgates information about the S-121 OGC Pilot Project to IHO Member States and invites them to participate and support the project.

### **Action Required of HSSC**

The HSSC is invited to:

- a. note the report on OGC Pilot Project Proposal
- b. agree to promulgating information about the OGC project to IHO Member States, inviting them to support and participate in the project.