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Briefing Note to ITU-R WP 5B Representatives May 2018 – Digital Maritime Communications

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Project acronym:	EfficienSea2
	EFFICIENSEA2 – efficient, safe and sustainable traffic at sea
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Organisation in charge of deliverable:	IALA

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1. BACKGROUND

IALA, through the work of the experts of the Communications Working Group of the IALA ENAV Committee, continues to advance its work to create the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) to provide the first world-wide standard communication channel to support e-Navigation. At the recent intersessional meeting of the IALA Communications Working Group documents were reviewed and agreed for forwarding to the next ITU-R WP 5B meeting, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 21 May – 1 June, 2017. The focus discussions included ongoing work on the VDES, including the VDE-SAT and on Autonomous Marine Radio Devices (AMRDs).

This briefing note is to bring your attention to the documents in advance of the meeting.

2. DOCUMENTS FOR WP5B – MAY 2018 MEETING

IALA have prepared the following documents for consideration by ITU-R WP5B:

1. Liaison note on the Identification and Categorization of Autonomous Maritime Radio Devices (AMRD) operating in the frequency band 156-162.05 MHz.

   Comments: This document notes the work of IALA on Mobile Aids to Navigation (MAtoN) and the publication of IALA Recommendation R1016, and directs the reader to the published document on the IALA website. In addition, IALA is requesting clarification on the access scheme that is envisioned for the new single slot message 28 that has been proposed for use related to AMRD. Finally, IALA notes the proposed method A1-2 for Group B AMRDs to use the frequency band 161.4375-161.4875 MHz, and the fact that these frequencies are within a band that is being considered for VDE-SAT downlink.

   Desired outcome: To receive clarification on the access scheme envisioned for the proposed message 28. Clarification on the expected use of the frequency band 161.4375-161.4875 MHz with respect to AMRDs, noting the ongoing discussions on alternative frequency bands for VDE-SAT downlink.

2. Liaison note – working document towards a preliminary draft new report (PDNR) ITU-R M.[VDES-SAT] with revised PDNR in track changes.

   Comments: The World Radio Conference 2015 (WRC-15) approved the designation of frequencies for the terrestrial service component of VDES (VDE-TER) but expressed concerning the potential conflict between the satellite service component of VDES (VDE-SAT) and other services in the same frequency band, and adjacent frequency bands. The decision to designate frequencies for VDE-SAT was deferred until WRC-19, subject to further studies including consideration of other optional frequency selections. IALA provided an update on the studies for VDE-SAT to ITU WP5B, November 2016. Further concerns were raised by ITU WP5B. All concerns raised during the ITU WP5B have been taken into account and carefully studied by IALA and an updated document is being provided to ITU WP5B in May 2018.

   Desired outcome: Promote further the discussion on the satellite component of the VDES, noting that, for VDES to be truly global, the satellite link is required. Review and agree the modifications identified in the revised PDNR ITU-R M.[VDE-SAT]. Note the options included to address specific concerns over frequency use, including the proposed alternative frequency for VDE-SAT downlink (frequency band 161.4375-161.4875 MHz) and the related discussion on the use of this frequency band with respect to AMRDs.

3. ACTION REQUESTED

Delegates to ITU-R WP 5B are requested to take note of the work of IALA on digital maritime radio communications and, where possible, support the papers through interventions. In addition, experts in digital radio communications are invited to participate in the work of IALA on VDES.

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