Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-2) VTS53-8.3.2

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**□** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **X** Input

**□** ENAV **X** VTS **□** Information

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Technical Domain / Task Number 2 Task 1.3.2

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Intersessional Group Task-1.3.2.

WG1 Intersessional Group on VTS digital communications

# Summary

During VTS52 work commenced the on task 1.3.2 to develop guidance on VTS Digital Communications. The purpose of the new Guideline is to specify how to implement the practices associated with Recommendations R0127 - VTS Operations and R1012 ‐ VTS Communications for the interaction between VTS and ships by digital means.

At the closing of VTS52 Committee Participants were invited to join the intersessional group working on the task. The intersessional group held two meetings before VTS53.

## Purpose of the document

To brief the participants of VTS53 on the progress that was made on task 1.3.2 to develop guidance on VTS Digital Communications.

## Related documents

VTS52-13.2.1.7 WP draft Guideline on VTS Digital Communications

# Discussion

At VTS52 the task group agreed on the high-level principles for the content and structure of the new guideline.

The Guideline should:

* Focus on the operational aspects, without detailed system requirements.
* Be for different levels of automation, with the focus on situations where human is in the loop.
* Focus on the digital information exchange between VTS and vessels, incl. ROC.
* Focus on current technologies and available specifications.
* Use of concrete use-case examples, similarly as in GL 1132.
* Give concrete examples of current best practices, e.g AIS ASM messages, UKC systems and advance reporting.

It was also decided that the Guideline could have similar structure as the G1132 '*VTS voice communications and phraseology'*.

During the intersessional work the group identified other documents which are relevant to the development of the new guideline, these included:

* Draft description of Maritime Service 1 - VTS
* Draft VTS Digital Information Service Product Specification
* IMO Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic Business
* Discussion paper: future VTS scenarios for the Rotterdam port authority
* Report of the Testbed for STM tools in VTS centres
* Discussion paper from Future VTS WG

During the discussions it was noted that the following topics should be considered during the development of the new guideline:

* Reduction on the VHF communications through system-to-system information exchange
* Benefits of route exchange between ships and VTS
* Equipment required on-board for information exchange, especially the need for additional systems other than ECDIS, which does not require a rigid performance standard, to promote consumption of digital VTS services

It was also noted that the draft description of Maritime Service 1 - VTS includes a list of potential technical services associated with the MS. However, as these candidate technical services are still under development, the document lacks descriptions for the services. The group was in the view the new guideline could include operational descriptions and use cases for these services, which could then be used as basis for the detailed description of technical services. This would also provide a link between this guideline, the description of Maritime Service for VTS and technical service specifications for VTS, which is currently developed in the joint VTS-ENAV task group.

The draft Guideline was updated accordingly, to be further worked on during VTS53.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the revision of draft Guideline on VTS digital communications as a working document to be progressed at VTS53.
1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-3)