Digital Hydrography on the Maritime Web

Embracing the challenges and opportunities

Conference Outline

The Hydrographic Society UK (THS UK), supported by both the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is arranging a two-day conference which will review the progress made, and steps still to be taken by professional Hydrographers to support the move towards a maritime web, more commonly described as *e-Navigation*.

The inevitable challenges presented by the migration from 'paper' to 'digital' are well documented and have been discussed in previous forums. This conference seeks to dispel some of the myths which persist and emphasise the considerable and constant efforts of the global hydrographic community to improve the quality and utility of the wide range of digital products utilitsing digital hydrographic data.

In particular, the conference will focus on the advances the international hydrographic community has already made in gathering and managing the data required by the full spectrum of end users who will routinely turn to 'The Maritime Web'.

Digital hydrographic data has underpinned electronic charts for many years, but is now used much more widely, and by a diverse range of end users extending beyond the traditional marine community. The conference will look to the future needs, and will showcase innovations and techniques in survey, chart production and associated technologies. It will demonstrate that end users' safety at sea, understanding of the marine environment and intelligent exploitation of 'The Blue Economy' can all be enhanced by access to the wealth of hydrographic data embedded in the most up-to-date products ranging from charts to 3D visualisations.

As this subject matter is of such importance internationally, we are delighted to be supported by the IHO who, in conjunction with IFHS, will run a number of stakeholder forums during the conference fostering a better understanding of the role and aspirations of the IHO. Even more importantly, delegates will be able to feedback and share ideas and improvements for the future.

The conference will take place in Southampton, UK on 29-30th October 2013. It will be organised by the hydrographic community with surveyors, chart producers and national and international regulators especially welcome to attend. However, the event will also provide an ideal opportunity to share knowledge with and seek input from other stakeholders in the maritime world. Mariners, marine pilots, ship owners and managers, manufacturers of ECDIS, other chart display and electronic navigation equipment, software vendors, trainers, academics and others with an interest in improving data management in the marine environment and safety at sea will therefore also be encouraged to attend and participate in the debate. Further challenges will always lie ahead for those involved in every aspect of Digital Hydrography, but this event provides a unique opportunity to contribute to the current understanding of, and continuing improvements in, the fields of hydrographic data gathering and product development.

Contributions and Participation

As the lead organiser of this event, THS UK is seeking expressions of interest from any organisation or individual wishing to contribute to the conference by making a presentation, exhibiting a product or service, or offering sponsorship or another form of support.

Contact

Please contact the Organising Committee at **digitalhydro@ths.org.uk**.