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## **Admiralty makes 2012 the year of 'Digital Navigation Insights'** Three key initiatives in 2012 will support the integration of digital navigation

Admiralty today announced a series of 'Digital Navigation Insights' initiatives to help the maritime community safely and successfully integrate digital navigation into ship and shore-side operations.

Next year marks the beginning of a new era of shipping operations, as the first of the ECDIS Mandate deadlines comes into force in July 2012. The 'Digital Navigation Insights' initiatives will continue Admiralty's campaign to help the maritime community meet the strategic and operational challenges of ECDIS compliance, which requires ECDIS to be the primary means of navigation on all large passenger, tanker and cargo ships on a rolling timetable.

The first of the initiatives is the Admiralty Digital Integration Workshop, which is available to attendees of Marintec China 2011 on the Admiralty stand. Developed in conjunction with Captain Paul Hailwood, a renowned expert on ECDIS and integrated bridge operations, and based on insight from shipping companies who have successfully made the transition to digital, the Workshop provides a clear, step-by-step process to support the planning and delivery of compliance with the ECDIS Mandate.

The Workshop builds a comprehensive checklist of activity for each key stage, from the initial risk assessment to the introduction and implementation of new procedures. Following its launch earlier this year, the Workshop will be held in Singapore and Mumbai in the first half of 2012, with additional dates to be announced.

A second initiative will focus on officer on watch training. A competent and confident bridge crew is a critical success factor in realising the safety and efficiency benefits of ECDIS navigation, and the maritime community faces a significant challenge in delivering the required training to meet ECDIS compliance. As part of an ongoing programme to raise awareness of the issue, Admiralty will be running a promotion offering ECIDS users the chance to win a sponsored place on an IMO Model Course 1.27 for the operational use of ECDIS. The promotion will launch next year, when entry details will be announced.

The third initiative focuses on the practical use of ENCs. There are key differences between navigating with paper charts and ENCs and, in addition to the safe operation of the many different types of ECDIS, it is vital that mariners understand how to correctly use the information within the ENC. Admiralty has developed an important training module to add to the IMO Model Course 1.27 to help develop ENC skills essential to safe day-to-day operations, which many courses only cover briefly.

To reach a wider audience the training module will be offered to maritime colleges around the world, and Admiralty will be working with maritime lecturers to enable them to integrate the module into their Model Courses. Further details will be announced soon.

Ian Moncrieff CBE, Chief Executive, UKHO said: “The integration of digital navigation into bridge operations is a huge step forward for the industry, delivering improved safety and efficiency. However, these benefits are not automatic; they require the strategic implementation of multiple technologies and processes alongside highly focused and competent operational execution. The ‘Digital Navigation Insights’ initiatives we’re undertaking over the coming year are all designed to equip shipping companies with the knowledge and skills they need to embrace the digital future of navigation.”

**-ENDS-**

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### **About Admiralty and the UKHO**

1. UKHO produces a worldwide series of some 3,300 paper nautical charts, 160 publications under the Admiralty brand and has a growing portfolio of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs). These charts are sold globally and used by nearly 70% of international shipping.
2. UKHO, a Government agency owned by the Ministry of Defence, has been charting the world’s oceans for more than 200 years with the primary aim of providing navigational services for the Royal Navy and merchant mariners to save and protect lives at sea. In addition it serves small craft and leisure mariners and provides a range of consultancy services.
3. UKHO is a Trading Fund which means it has the freedom to trade commercially to generate revenue and cover running costs.
4. UKHO also plays a central role, in support of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in discharging the navigation element of the UK’s Safety of Life at Sea Treaty obligations for waters of UK national responsibility.
5. Admiralty Vector Chart Service brings together Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) from national hydrographic offices around the world and new ENC coverage produced by UKHO in co-operation with Foreign Governments to provide comprehensive, official, worldwide coverage.

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