



UKHO to Lead a Series of International Events on the Future of Navigation

Hamburg stages first of the events which will educate and inform mariners and shipping companies about the transition from paper to digital navigation

17th May 2010

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) today announced it is hosting a series of international events which will explore the strategic and operational issues raised by the fundamental shift in maritime navigation from paper charts to digital technology. The events are the next phase of the UKHO's programme to provide international mariners with timely information and practical guidance which enables them to plan effectively for a future world of digital navigation.

The first of the events, held in partnership with UKHO distributor HanseNautic, will take place at the International Maritime Museum in Hamburg, Germany, on May 20. The day will be hosted by Lloyd's List editor Tom Leander, and include speakers from shipping companies and marine hardware manufacturers, as well as the UKHO and HanseNautic. Further events will be held in Singapore and Athens later in the year, with additional venues to be confirmed.

Each event will bring together keynote speakers from across the industry to share their experience and insight into e-navigation. Key topics will include compliance within the rapidly changing commercial and regulatory environment, the evolution in navigation technology and processes and the impact on bridge and shore-based operations heralded by the compulsory carriage of ECDIS, due to be implemented on a rolling timetable from 2012. The events will also provide practical advice and demonstrations of the digital solutions and services which will help make navigation and fleet management smarter, simpler and safer.

Mike Robinson, UKHO chief executive says: "Maritime navigation will be transformed over the next 10 years as the industry adopts ECDIS and moves towards the IMO's vision of e-navigation. The changes will deliver huge benefits in terms of both the safety of life at sea as well the efficiency and effectiveness of maritime operations. But achieving those goals requires careful planning and coordination today to ensure a successful transition to digital navigation tomorrow. The UKHO is working across a number of fronts to help mariners address the business, technical and operational issues involved and these events are a natural next step. They will bring together people with

valuable experience to offer guidance and best practice, enabling mariners and shipping company personnel to embrace the future of navigation confidently.”

In addition to exploring strategic issues, each event will serve as a showcase for a series of product demonstrations and ECDIS training insights to help customers better understand e-navigation and the ongoing changes to operations required by the compulsory carriage of ECDIS. Attendees will have the opportunity to try out Admiralty Vector Chart Service (AVCS) and Admiralty e-Navigator, the latest integrated digital catalogue, product viewer and voyage planning tool. The Admiralty Information Overlay (AIO) tool, the only global digital service to include worldwide Temporary and Preliminary Notices to Mariners, will also be showcased at the event.

Björn Woge, managing partner, HanseNautic, says: “The ECDIS Mandate will impact a huge number of companies and mariners based in Hamburg, one of the busiest ports in Europe, so we’re delighted to be jointly hosting the first of these worldwide events. The UKHO has demonstrated a clear vision for the future of navigation and delivered innovative digital products based on a complete understanding of the marine environment. These events will help share that unique experience and knowledge at a critical time in the industry.”

- ENDS -

About UKHO

1. 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.
2. UKHO is a Trading Fund which means it has the freedom to trade commercially to generate revenue and cover running costs.
3. 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.
4. UKHO produces a worldwide series of some 3,300 paper nautical charts and 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 per cent of international shipping.
5. AVCS 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.
6. e-Navigator back of bridge application will incorporate the current functionality of the well proven MARIS Maritime Digital Services (MDS) which has been accredited by many ship-owners as the means by which they were able to make the transition from analogue to electronic navigation. e-Navigator will build upon this platform and include extensive new features.

Contact information:

Issued by Nelson Bostock Communications (www.nelsonbostock.com) on behalf of UKHO.

For further information, please contact

Tony Brown (tony.brown@nelsonbostock.com)

020 7792 7440

Elliot Adams (elliott.adams@nelsonbostock.com)

020 7792 7412

Helen Gough (helen.gough@nelsonbostock.com)

020 7792 7424