



UKHO Announces Complete Official ENC Coverage of China

Admiralty Vector Chart Service (AVCS) now provides unique access to SOLAS-compliant electronic navigational data for key global trade area

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The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) has announced the completion of Chinese coastal coverage; another substantial increase in the Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC) available in its Admiralty Vector Chart Service. AVCS now includes coverage of the Chinese mainland as far as the Pearl River, the Coast of Hainan Island and some of China's busiest ports including Shanghai, Shenzhen and Qingdao.

In total the UKHO has now released 375 Chinese ENCs covering the huge area of Chinese coastal waters and all the country's major ports. The new charts are being made available under a unique agreement between the UKHO and its respected colleagues, the Chinese Naval Guarantee Department (NGD). These charts are only available through Admiralty - making AVCS the only ENC service to provide worldwide coverage.

In total, AVCS now provides official berth-to-berth coverage between 2,165 trading ports worldwide and more than 10,613 charts. ENCs are available on flexible three-, six-, nine- and 12-month licensing terms. All come with the added assurance of instant access via the Admiralty remote licensing facility and weekly updating service, both online and on CD.

These figures have been achieved two years ahead of the UKHO's commitment to provide AVCS coverage of 2,000 ports by 2012. The benchmark has been made possible with the support of many hydrographic offices worldwide and, in this instance, the productive relationship established between the UKHO and the NGD.

The ENCs for China enable shipping companies operating in the region to easily and immediately satisfy ECDIS carriage requirements for electronic charts, a key step in meeting the changing operational and compliance requirements brought about by the transition from paper to digital navigation.

Mr Zheng Mianshen, Senior Superintendent of China Shipping Development Co. Ltd, Tanker Co. says: "As one of the first companies in China to trial this ENC provision, we are already seeing the benefit

on the vessels that are using it. Any system that helps to improve safety onboard and, in the face of one of the most severe economic downturns in memory, provide additional cost savings must be applauded. Mandatory carriage of ECDIS will be with us as early as 2012, and introducing AVCS now provides us with the necessary timeframe to equip, train and test any system before the regulations are enforced.”

The addition of ENC for China to the AVCS folio further extends the service’s market-leading coverage. AVCS is now used by more than 675 shipping companies worldwide with more than 60 vessels a week joining the service.

Sweethigh Navigation Technology Ltd (SNT) in Shanghai is one of the Admiralty distributors providing the AVCS system to Far Eastern shipping companies as a key part of Admiralty’s portfolio of electronic products and services. Mr Changzhe Wu, Marketing & Sales Manager says: “The introduction of ENCs for this part of the world is a welcome addition to safe and efficient navigation. The waterways around major ports such as Shanghai and Singapore are some of the busiest in the world and an AVCS-equipped bridge provides the tools that allow mariners to navigate these passages in the safest manner possible. We are already seeing strong interest in AVCS and other Admiralty digital products and anticipate a significant uptake of the latest Chinese ENCs.”

Mike Robinson, UKHO Chief Executive says “The completion of coastal coverage for China and more than 10,000 ENCs in total is a fantastic achievement and testament to the cooperation and efforts of hydrographic offices throughout the world. Maritime navigation is undergoing a fundamental change as it moves from paper to digital technology, and a critical factor in making that transition successfully requires mariners and shore-based teams to have the utmost confidence in the products and services they use. That’s why a central element of our vision for the future of navigation is providing the high standard of global ENC data today’s mariners and shipping companies need and can rely on to make safe and efficient berth-to-berth voyages.”

- ENDS -

About AVCS

The Admiralty Vector Chart Service (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.

AVCS contains only ENC data that meets SOLAS Carriage Requirements for use within Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS).

Today, AVCS has over 10,550 available ENCs, and provides coverage of more than 2,100 identified trading ports, many of which are unique to AVCS.

AVCS is designed to work seamlessly in conjunction with the UKHO's latest services, including the new information overlay, integrated digital catalogue, product viewer and voyage planning tool, Admiralty e-Navigator, which becomes available shortly to add the information system power to the chart display capability of ECDIS.

About the UKHO

1. The 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. The UKHO is a Trading Fund which means it has the freedom to trade commercially to generate revenue and cover running costs.
3. The 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. The 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.

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