



## **UKHO opens doors on the future of navigation in Singapore**

*First overseas office will provide distributor and customer support from May 2011*

### **12 April 2011**

Today at Sea Asia, the UKHO announced that it will open its first overseas office in Singapore to provide local support for Admiralty distributors and a rapidly-growing customer base across Asia. The move will enable the UKHO to work more closely with the world's largest maritime market which has a vital role to play in the shipping industry's successful transition to digital navigation.

The number of vessels throughout Asia using electronic navigation technology is rising quickly as shipping companies take advantage of both the improved safety benefits and operational efficiencies available. The introduction of the ECDIS Mandate from 2012 is expected to further increase demand.

Michael Cauter, Deputy Chief Executive at the UKHO, said "Today, Asia is the engine of the shipping industry: the region holds eight of the world's ten busiest ports, manufactures the majority of new commercial vessels, and provides more merchant crew than any other continent. It's hugely important for the UKHO to be in a position to easily engage with this vast and vibrant maritime community as the industry shifts to digital navigation. By establishing a base in Singapore, Admiralty will be at the heart of the conversation, and best placed to respond swiftly to the needs of our growing number of customers across Asia."

The Admiralty team in Singapore will work in close collaboration with distributors across Asia to ensure their customers have access to Admiralty advice and expertise on digital navigation strategy as well as local product support. In addition, the office provides a platform for ongoing engagement with the Asian maritime market, ensuring that developing requirements from customers in the region become an integral part of future Admiralty plans for products, service and support.

The operation in Singapore marks the beginning of a new phase of the UKHO's long and successful history of collaboration with the Asian maritime community in the development of navigational products and services. The UKHO has worked closely with many of the Asian Hydrographic Offices over the last 30 years in the development of first paper, then digital charts of the region to help improve the information available to mariners.

Registered as Admiralty Hydrographic Asia Pacific Pte, the office will be based at 1 Fullerton Road, Marina Bay.

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**About Admiralty and the 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, 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.
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.

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