

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF IAIN

Fellow members and visitors to our website,

Last year I began my message by commenting on the proliferation of autonomous marine systems. That proliferation has continued apace. To date they have been mostly small craft pre-programmed for scientific research but aspirations are growing and so is the size of vessels intended to be remotely controlled or, indeed, autonomous. IAIN is engaging in this area, most specifically by supporting the UK Marine Autonomous Systems (MAS) Regulatory Working Group to evolve a regulatory framework that will enable developers to plan their projects so as to be compliant with those regulations.

Despite activity in the US intended to encourage industry to develop a suitable non-space-based timing and positioning system to complement GNSS and the evident deliberate and significant interference to GNSS signals in some parts of the world, there does not yet seem to be a commercially viable system available for consideration. With the advent of more, and larger, MAS the necessity for a reliable timing and navigation backup to space-based positioning is evermore starkly obvious. The only system presently developed enough that it could deliver a solution to this requirement is e-LORAN. For the users, the elegant way to encompass eLORAN would be to develop a multi-system receiver capable of processing signals from some or all of the major GNSS (GPS, GALILEO, GLONASS, COMPASS) and the Regional Navigation Satellite Systems (QZSS, IRNS (or NAVIC)) and eLORAN, for they all use similar correlation techniques and they are each suitable for land, sea and air platforms.

On a lighter and more positive note, there have been some changes within the IAIN community. Excitingly, we have gained some new members: the Israeli Association of Automatic Control became a Full Member, whilst the Irish Maritime Forum, the Indian Maritime Foundation and the Comité International Radio-Maritime have all become Corresponding Members thereby expanding the regions and the interests that we represent. In addition we are delighted to name our first Corporate Member, ECDIS Ltd of the eMaritime Group. We welcome all those who belong to these organizations and look forward to purposeful and effective co-operation in the future.

This message is also an opportunity to note a change of personnel at the Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN) – Captain Peter Chapman-Andrews LVO RN stands down as the Director of the RIN at the end of the year and will be succeeded by John Pottle (recently of Spirent), already known to many of you as the Senior

Vice President of IAIN. We thank Peter for his endeavours whilst the Director of RIN and, equally, his contribution to IAIN as our representative at the IMO. To John we send our best wishes for his tenure as only the fifth Director of the RIN in its 70 years.

I hope that you will have all now seen the freshly refurbished and updated website – the outcome of a significant effort by our often unsung Webmaster, Michiel de Mooij. I would also like to acknowledge: the contributions made to the Association in the form of input to the website, both material and suggestions; the efforts made by our representatives at the various international fora they attend on our behalf, and the continued support received from our membership in general. Thank you all.

We wish a happy, successful and safe New Year to all our Members and readers.



*Yasuo Arai,
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President IAIN*