

Major steps taken in developing international e-Navigation standards

Denmark is striving to digitalise the maritime industry and now a project led by the Danish Maritime Authority and supported by the EU has taken a major step towards a global standard for digital data exchange. This was reported by the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) in a *communiqué* of 6 April 2017.

When a provider of digital solutions develops a new product to the maritime world, it is typically created for specific equipment and for a limited geographical area. The solutions' coverage could potentially be expanded, but it often requires a major transition to make even the best solutions available globally. New guidelines are intended to change this.

IALA's Committee on e-Navigation have just agreed on a proposed guideline for specifications of digital data exchange. The guideline has been developed in DMA's EfficienSea2 project. The new guideline will provide a common language on how to deliver digital data services and make it possible to use the same digital data stream across equipment and regions.

Thomas Christensen, DMA's representative on the IALA Committee on e-Navigation commented: *'That may increase the use of modern navigation solutions and make it easier for small and medium-sized companies with the right ideas to operate globally.'*

'E-Navigation is about increasing safety at sea through the best possible use of digital solutions. Standardized specifications for digital solutions make it easier and cheaper to develop a solution for Danish waters and make it useful around the world.'

The proposed guideline is expected to be finally adopted by the IALA Council in December 2017.

Readers may wish to learn more about the effort to adopt international standards on the website of EfficienSea2 at: www.ufficiensea2.org