New guideline adopted for digital services

A new specification guideline for digital services in the maritime domain has been approved by the IALA Council. This was reported through EfficienSea2 (led by the Danish Maritime Authority: www.dma.dk) on 20 December 2017. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme.

This new guideline is based on input from EfficienSea2 and will help ensure that the best digital solutions work across different oceans and different equipment.

Thomas Christensen, Work Package Leader for EfficienSea2 and Senior Advisor at the Danish Maritime Authority, explained all this on the EfficienSea2 website to be found at: http://efficiensea2.org/iala-council-adopts-guideline-for-digital-services/

He commented: '*In order for digital services to truly be beneficial at sea, there is no question about the need for interoperability and globalisation, but we cannot get that without having a shared reference. We are confident that this guideline will serve as that reference in the future*.'

The *IALA guideline on the specification of e-Navigation technical services* is presented under the umbrella of e-Navigation, but Thomas Christensen makes clear that the guideline can be used for many different kinds of services. He added: '*The specification guideline is general and it will be very useful for a wide range of maritime services*.'

At its 65th session held at IALA HQ in St Germain-en-Laye, (78100) France, early in December, the IALA Council adopted a new specification guideline for digital services in the maritime domain. Based on input from EfficienSea2, the new guideline will help ensure that the best digital solutions work across different oceans and different equipment.

Digital services in the maritime industry have for years been drafted in many different formats, making it difficult to achieve interoperability between different systems and across different geographical spheres. Now, however, a new specification guideline has been adopted by the IALA Council that will strengthen the harmonisation of digital services in the future.

This guideline was originally proposed to the IALA Council by the organisation's e-Navigation Committee's 20th session.

The new specification guideline is compatible with the MCP (Maritime Connectivity Platform, formerly known as the Maritime Cloud), and for Thomas Christensen, this will provide an easier path for a company with global ambitions. In conclusion Christensen said: '*The service specification guideline will boost interoperability across the world and, once you achieve that, you need a solution for actually finding the trustworthy and secure services across the world. In EfficienSea2 we believe MCP is such a solution*.'