

# 100 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN HYDROGRAPHY





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## CELEBRATIONS ON THE ROOF TOP OF THE IHO SECRETARIAT

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) turned 100 on 21 June 2021, with an on-site celebration in Monaco which was broadcast live online. As part of the festivities, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco highlighted the importance of international

cooperation to increase our knowledge of the ocean: *“It is our commitment that will help us to reconcile the use and preservation of the Seas and Oceans.”* Dr Mathias Jonas, highlighted how the scope of the IHO’s work has evolved over the decades. *“Shipping is not the only user of this information. In order to use marine resources while also preserving the marine environment, accurate data are necessary: to develop efficient marine renewable energy, to improve productivity for fisheries and aquaculture by capitalising on oceanic parameters, and the list goes on.”* His message which was echoed by other participants: *“I hope to see hydrography prominent in the mix of innovations and solutions forthcoming from next year’s UN Ocean Conference, in order to give us data we require, for the science we need, for the*

*Ocean we want.”* Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean Italy, one of the founding IHO member states, sent the Amerigo Vespucci, a tall ship of the Italian Navy, which serves as a training ship for cadets to demonstrate the enduring relevance of hydrography for all who navigate the seas. However, beyond reviewing past achievements, the celebrations also looked to the future. In order to showcase modern survey technology to obtain hydrographic and oceanographic data, several autonomous vehicles and drones carrying hydroacoustic measurement devices were deployed in Monaco. HSH Prince Albert I launched the survey of the port of Monaco remotely from the roof of the IHO Secretariat. iXblue, situated in La Ciotat near Marseille demonstrated Drix, a



Dr. Mathias Jonas, S-G IHO



HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, Dr. Mathias Jonas, David Wyatt

7.7m autonomous surface vehicle which is able to conduct both remote-controlled and supervised autonomous operations. The Drix performed sea trials in the entrance of the port Hercule in Monaco. The ECA GROUP displayed the

A18D Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) on the Digue in Port Hercule, pier Rainier III. The A18D is 5,5m long, has an endurance of 24 hours, can achieve speeds up to 6 knots and can operate in depths down to 3000m. *“Hydrographers will, for example,*

*have to learn techniques related to artificial intelligence to process big data. This work has started and everything indicates that the automation of processing will allow us to free ourselves from the most repetitive tasks.”*

Laurent Kerléguer,  
Director General, French Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (Shom).



HEM Peter Thomson,  
Dr. Mathias Jonas, Laurent Kerléguer

## AFTERNOON WEBINAR ON THE FUTURE OF HYDROGRAPHY

In the afternoon, there was a webinar on the implications and future of hydrography. This included a panel discussion with IHO Member State representatives and industry partners:

- ◆ *Dr Geneviève Béchard,* National Hydrographer of Canada and Chair of the IHO Council
- ◆ *Bjorn Jalving,* Senior Vice President Technology, Kongsberg
- ◆ *Emma Wise,* Sales Director at SevenCs/ChartWorld International
- ◆ *Dr Peter Heffernan,* Ocean Ambassador, former CEO Marine Institute Ireland
- ◆ *Dr Vladimir Ryabinin,* IOC UNESCO Executive-Secretary

The webinar also included speeches from partner organizations:

- ◆ *HEM Kitack Lim,* IMO Secretary-General
- ◆ *Prof. Petteri Taalas,* WMO Secretary General
- ◆ *HEM Michael Lodge,* ISA Secretary-General
- ◆ *Frances Baskerville,* CIRM Secretary-General
- ◆ *Francis Zachariae,* IALA Secretary-General



Amerigo Vespucci Italian Navy



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Photo credit

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