

21st Meeting of IALA AtoN Requirements and Management Committee

Paris, France

20-24 October 2025

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 1.1.6 Maintain relationship and collaboration with IALA and joint efforts on S-100 development.

Summary

The 21st session of the IALA AtoN Requirements and Management (ARM) Committee was held from 20 to 30 October 2025, with the in-person meeting at IALA Headquarters from 20 to 24 October. The session was chaired by Guttorm Tomren with Natasha McMahon as Vice-Chair, and attended by IHO Assistant Director Yong Baek alongside 99 participants from 29 countries.

The ARM Committee reviewed a DTEC paper on establishing a MCP within IALA's work programme. The Committee supported conducting a survey before a formal decision and recommended defining operational requirements, conducting a feasibility study, and ensuring cybersecurity and fair industry participation. Monitoring the IHO MCP implementation was also emphasized to gather lessons learned.

The Committee discussed MRN management, reviewing inputs from the inter-committee task group and a Liaison Note from DTEC. Three draft guidelines—G1143, G1164, and Gxxx (no number associated so far) — were finalized, and the Liaison Note was circulated to PAP (Policy Advisory Panel) and all committees to clarify responsibilities and ensure coordinated MRN implementation.

The Committee received an update on IALA–IHO collaboration regarding the S-100 and S-200 frameworks, noting progress on S-125 (AtoN) development and approved S-200 series proposals in the GI Registry. A joint IHO–IALA S-100 Workshop is planned in Istanbul in September 2026

Details:

The ARM committee reviewed and discussed an input paper from the IALA DTEC Committee regarding the establishment of a Maritime Connectivity Platform (MCP) instance, as part of the ongoing development and implementation of the MCP within IALA's work programme.

The Committee supports the proposal to conduct a survey prior to making any formal decision on the potential establishment of an operational IALA MCP. The committee further suggested that the IALA DTEC considers the following points:

- Define operational requirements, including but not limited to:
 - Liability issues to IALA
 - The expected scope of usability
 - Non-functional requirements
 - Staffing requirements at IALA HQ
- The feasibility study should:
 - Identify the competencies required within IALA for MCP management

- Evaluate whether the solution should be deployed and hosted in-house or procured externally
- IALA should liaise and monitor the IHO MCP implementation to identify lessons learned.
- Consider existing commercial interests of IALA industrial members
- Following the feasibility studies, ensure cyber security measures are implemented and validated through penetration testing
- A possible test MCP could be established, with a clear framework, project start, project stop and project evaluation. Industry partners should be given equal opportunity to bid for participation in the project

The ARM discussed the topic of Maritime Resource Name (MRN) management and documentation. This included reviewing input documents from inter-committee task group and a Liaison Note from DTEC. The committee noted the finalization of three draft MRN related guidelines:

- G1143 Ed.3.1 – *Unique Identifiers for Maritime Resources*
- G1164 Ed.1.1 – *Management of Maritime Resource Name Organization Identifiers*
- Gxxx – *Management of the IALA MRN Namespace*

During the session, the Committee received a presentation outlining recent developments in the collaboration between IALA and the IHO, particularly with regard to the S-100 and S-200 frameworks. The update covered several key areas of joint activity.

S-100 Product Specification Development

The Committee noted positive progress on the joint development of S-125 – Aids to Navigation (AtoN), undertaken collaboratively by the IALA ARM Committee and the IHO NIPWG. In May, the IALA Technical Director attended the HSSC meeting in Stavanger to report on IALA's work. The IHO Secretariat expressed interest in participating in future IALA meetings, which were welcomed by the Committee.

GI Registry and Testbed Activities

Concept proposals from the S-200 series Product Specifications were submitted to the IHO GI Registry and have been approved. Additional proposals from the ARM Committee received minor feedback from the IHO, reflecting close coordination between the two organizations.

Joint IHO-IALA S-100 Workshop Proposal

A joint IHO-IALA S-100 workshop, planned to be held in Istanbul in September 2026, was discussed by the IALA Council and the PAP. The ARM Committee will prepare a formal proposal for Council consideration at its December meeting.

Upcoming meetings:

The 22nd meeting of the ARM Committee (ARM22) is planned to be held from 20 to 24 April 2026 at the IALA Headquarters in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France.

Group Photo

