77th CIRM Annual Conference
Rome, Italy, 3 – 5 November 2026

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2026

Task 1.1.3 Maintain relationship with the Comité International Radio Maritime (CIRM)

High level summary:

- The IHO Director of Technology, Dr John Nyberg, gave two presentations: an IHO update covering the new IHO leadership, the decisions of Assembly-4, Council, and cooperation with industry, and a presentation on the new IHO Infrastructure Centre (IHOIC), the new GEBCO Secretariat, and the status of the S-100 transition.
- The main message to industry was predictability. S-98 and S-164 have been stabilized for type approval and moved into a maintenance cycle
- S-100 ECDIS becomes mandatory for new installations from 1 January 2029. With that date in view, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) were invited to take part directly in the IHO SECOM service testing next year and to virtually join the inauguration of the IHOIC in Busan on 10 November 2026.

Details:

The 77th Annual Conference of CIRM, the international association of marine electronics companies, was held in Rome on 3–5 November 2026. It brought together equipment manufacturers, service providers and partner organizations, including IALA, IMPA, RTCM and IEC, to discuss GNSS resilience, artificial intelligence at sea and the S-100 transition.

CIRM's (Comité International Radio-Maritime) members include the major manufacturers of bridge navigation and communication equipment, together with organizations closely linked to the IHO such as the UK Hydrographic Office, NOAA's Coast Survey, IC-ENC and PRIMAR. Richard Doherty (CIRM) opened the conference. Rear Admiral Giuseppe Massimiliano Aletta (Italian Naval Fleet Command) gave the keynote address, and Ralf Magner (Sperry Marine) delivered the CIRM President's address. The first day continued with updates from the wider maritime community and sessions on building resilience to GNSS interference and on emerging applications of artificial intelligence at sea.

The IHO was represented by the Director of Technology, Dr John Nyberg, who gave the IHO update in the session on the wider maritime community, alongside IALA, IMPA and RTCM. He began by thanking industry. CIRM members turn IHO standards into the equipment that mariners use on the bridge, and their experts in IHO working groups test the specifications and say plainly when something will not work in practice, feedback that has made S-100 better. He acknowledged that the transition asks a great deal of industry, in investment and in patience, and said the IHO had heard its call for predictability. He then gave a short introduction to the IHO. He presented the new leadership in place since 1 September 2026, with Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi as Secretary-General and Mr Adam Greenland as Director, and noted that he continues as Director of Technology, a portfolio that covers S-100 and the new Infrastructure Centre.

Dr Nyberg then outlined the decisions of the 4th Session of the IHO Assembly (A-4). He focused on the two most relevant to CIRM, the establishment of the IHO Infrastructure Centre, and the new subscrip

tion model for the Data Protection Scheme, which affects how S-100 data is protected and distributed. He also presented some of the IHO's recent decisions including the GEBCO Secretariat.

On cooperation with industry, Dr Nyberg thanked CIRM for its active participation in the WENDWG and the S-100WG (including the S-100TSM) and for its representation at the HSSC. He reported that planning is under way for an IHO stakeholder engagement event next year, given fresh impetus by his recent visit to the IMO, and that the IHO is working to make the management of product specifications stable and predictable. He also pointed industry to two existing channels: the IHO registration procedure, and access to Member States' shared test data sets by application form.

On the second day, Dr Nyberg opened the session "S-100 Transition: Standards, Data & Infrastructure" with a presentation on the IHO Infrastructure Centre. He presented its role is to support the development, operation and management of IHO standardized products and services on a common base infrastructure. This covers the S-100 framework and the life cycle of its product specifications, the IHO Geospatial Information Registry, navigation system type approval where S-100 components are involved, the S-100 Security Scheme, S-100 operational services and secure data distribution, and other infrastructure support beyond S-100.

Dr Nyberg then reviewed the status of the S-100 transition, including the approval timeline for Phase 1 and 2 product specifications. The key message to OEMs was that standards are being stabilized for type approval and moved into a maintenance cycle to give industry predictability.

Finally, Dr Nyberg presented the IHO SECOM service test and its aim to trial the IHO IP-based service for SECOM before it is officially launched, so that gaps can be found and fixed ahead of the 1 January 2029 milestone, with reference to IMO MSC.530(106)/Rev.1. Dr Nyberg noted that OEMs have so far taken part only through Member State participation, and that there will be an opportunity for OEMs to join directly next year.

The rest of the S-100 session complemented the IHO presentation well. Topics included S-100 trials and testing (UKHO and Teledyne Raymarine Commercial), S-100 data distribution from an IALA perspective, an update on the Maritime Connectivity Platform (Fintraffic VTS / MCC), and the implementation of a standards-based SECOM terminal over IP and VDES (AIVeNautics), which bears directly on the IHO SECOM service test. The wider programme also included a NextGen panel, a session on maritime operations and technology, the CIRM Technical Report, an IEC and ISO update from IEC TC 80, and the CIRM Membership Awards. The conference closes on 5 November with breakout groups of the CIRM Cyber Risk, Service and VDR Working Groups.

CIRM remains the IHO's most direct channel to the companies that put S-100 on the bridge. The conference was a timely opportunity to show industry that the IHO has responded to its call for predictability, to present the Infrastructure Centre as an operational reality, and to stress that the 2029 milestone requires industry and the IHO to work together. Follow-up is recommended on the planned IHO stakeholder engagement event and on the direct participation of OEMs in the next round of SECOM service testing.

Photo



Figure 1. The IHO Infrastructure Centre presentation to delegates at the CIRM Annual Conference 2026, Rome, 4 November 2026



Figure 2. The IHO Director of Technology with CIRM representatives, including Tom Mellor (UKHO) and Richard Doherty (CIRM), Rome, November 2026

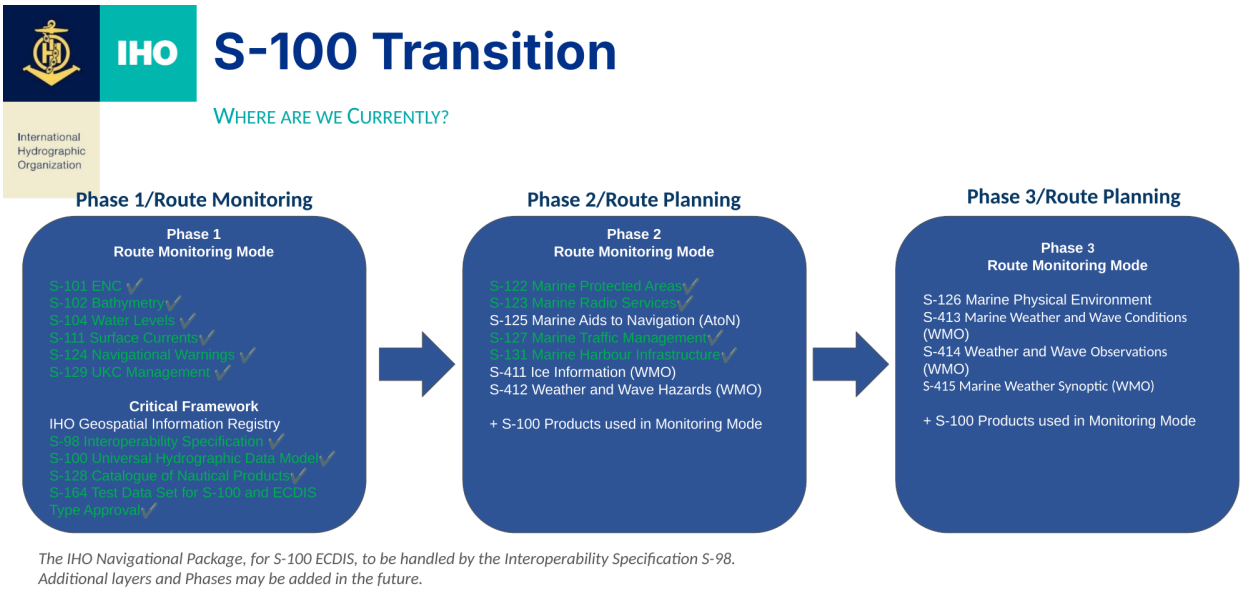


Figure 3. Status of the S-100 transition by phase, as presented to the CIRM Annual Conference 2026

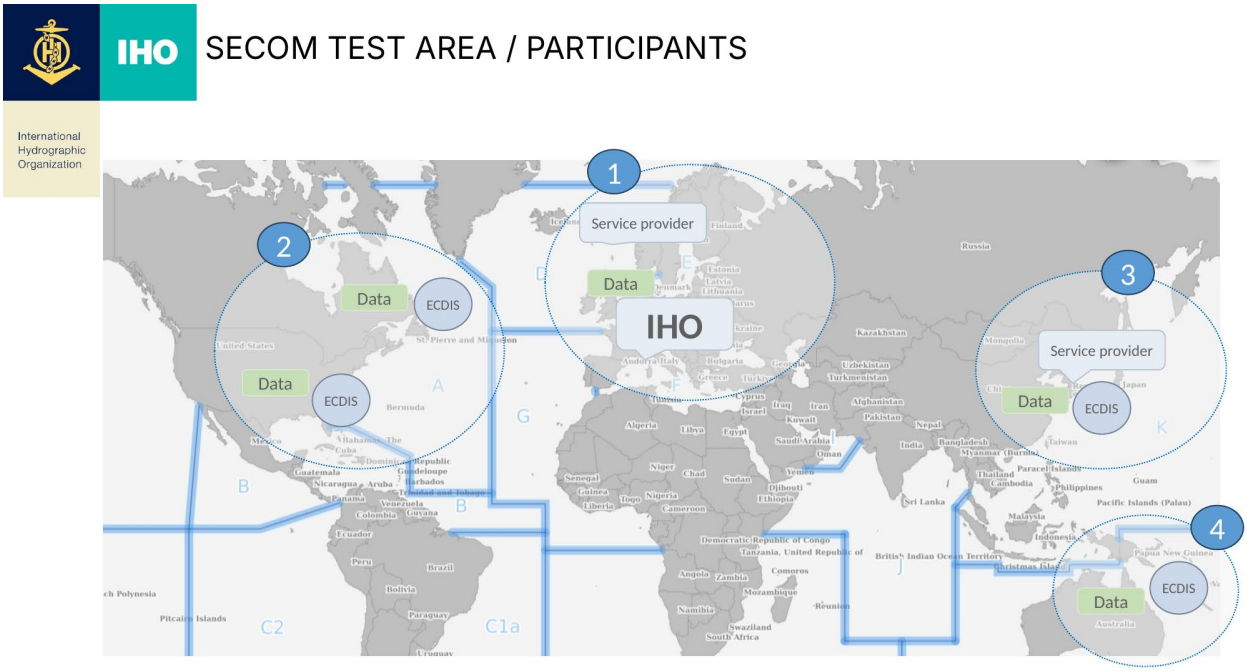


Figure 4. IHO SECOM service test: four regional test areas connected through the IHO hub

Upcoming meetings:

- CIRM Annual Conference 2027 New Orleans, USA (Date TBD)