

Report of the S-124 Project Team

Submitted by:	Eivind Mong, Chairman
Related Documents:	S-124
Related Projects:	S-100

Chair:	Eivind Mong, Canada
Vice-Chair:	N/A
Secretary:	N/A
Member States:	Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.
Expert Contributor Organisations:	CIRM, Furuno, Inmarsat, Iridium, Kongsberg Norcontrol AS, KRISO, SevenCs, Wartsila, WR Systems.

Meetings Held During Reporting Period

No official meeting has been held since WWNWS12. Several task group meetings has been undertaken to progress the data model and model element definitions.

The next meeting planned is S-124PT2 VTC in June 2021.

Work Program

Project team is progressing the work on the S-124 Product Specification. Focus is on finalizing the data model, Feature Catalogue and GML schema. Specifically the definitions of the model elements are being drafted and made ready for Project Team review. A large number of warning type additions were made to the data model and it is taking time to work through these. Doing such work by VTC is tedious and takes several rounds of discussions to finish the draft.

Definitions must be finalized before a feature catalogue and next version of GML schema can be created. Looking for help within membership to start drafting portrayal catalogue, but anticipate that work is dependent on Feature Catalogue for rules creation.

The Project Team is investigating multi language options for S-124 datasets. It has been noted that main product language being English has been a sort of convention in IHO S-xx products, although no IHO resolution was found to officialise this. Local Navigational Warning services around the world may only issue warnings in local language, for example French. This has potential impacts on S-124 development and what constitute a compliant S-124 dataset.

Two main options are under consideration;

Option 1) Datasets contain all relevant languages, which result in bigger files and a more complex data model. But benefits include only one dataset per NAVWARN and a simpler distribution model. However, this approach may add additional work to local warning services if English is required.

Option 2) Datasets contain only one languages, which gives smaller files and a simpler data model, but result in more files and more complex distribution model where language must be selected and remembered for the specific user, at least during the entire voyage. Impacts on ECDIS and ECS are unclear and being investigated. An option is that non-English local Navigational Warning service may not be usable for ECDIS.

There are several dependencies on S-100 Ed. 5.0.0 for the S-124 product specification. Especially metadata, portrayal and feature catalogue changes. Chair is participating in the work to keep S-124 product specification aligned.

Supported by IALA eNAV committee, Maritime Connectivity Platform (MCP) Consortium and OFFIS, a S-124 service discovery has been drafted in line with IMO Maritime Services and IALA G1128. The draft documents are in form of a service specification, a technical design and an information exchange instance description for a web service.

Chair is participating in the IEC TC80 Working Group 17, in the development of IEC 63173-2 Maritime navigation and radiocommunication equipment and systems – Data interface – Part 2: Secure exchange and communication of S-100 based products (SECOM). Chair is support the work of creating an example Navigational Warning service within the SECOM documentation. SECOM is viewed as a very promising candidate solution for the distribution of S-124 Navigational Warnings since it is a communication function ships will likely have anyhow for route exchange.

Problems Encountered

Covid-related restrictions are impacting the progress of the development since face to face meetings would likely have provided a boost in the development.

Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Product specification development is the main focus of the Project Team and investigation is underway on how to distribution of datasets should work.

Action Required of DRWG

The DRWG is invited to:

- a. note this report and comment as appropriate.