



## IHO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monaco, 28 June 2023

### HSSC Letter 02/2023

## UPDATE ON THE MARITIME AUTONOMOUS SURFACE SHIPS (MASS) NAVIGATION PROJECT TEAM (MASS PT)

#### References:

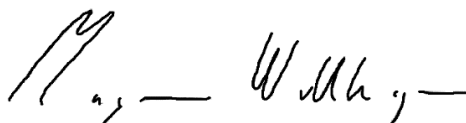
- A. HSSC-15 List of Decisions and Actions, [version 1.1 dated 19 June 2023](#).
- B. Doc. [HSSC15-05.9A](#) - [Presentation](#).

Dear HSSC Members,

1. Following up on the decisions and actions from the HSSC-15 meeting (Reference A, HSSC15/70 to /73), this letter is to provide an update on the MASS Project Team.
2. HSSC established the MASS navigation Project Team in May 2021 with a two-year mandate to:
  - To identify and prioritize MASS navigation requirements;
  - To analyse their impact on hydrographic standards and services (i.e. S-100);
  - To develop a set of recommendations/issues to be addressed by existing working groups.
3. At HSSC-15, the MASS PT provided a very comprehensive assessment analysis (Reference B), identifying regional situations with regard to MASS issues and requirements, as well as an S-100 gap analysis. The HSSC welcomed IALA's intention to cooperate with the IHO on this matter and invited the MASS PT to also engage directly with the IMO Joint MSC/FAL/LEG Working Group on MASS.
4. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the MASS PT adopted at HSSC-13 and related meetings documents are available on the HSSC webpage > MASS PT ([link](#)).
5. The Project Team has met its remit, however, due to the nascent nature of the MASS industry, HSSC has decided that the MASS PT should continue for a further year and provide HSSC-16 with draft ToRs and a Work Plan for consideration of forming a permanent Working Group. The purpose of the working group would be to continue to monitor MASS developments, gather navigation requirements for the relevant S-100 Working Groups to implement and establish a cooperation with the IMO and IALA MASS WGs. The MASS PT is seeking additional Member States to join the project team and subsequent working group to ensure that most or all regions of the globe are represented in order to engage and report on MASS activity and requirements within their respective regions.

6. All Member States willing to contribute in the activities of the MASS PT (and possibly MASSWG in the future) are invited to indicate their intentions to the MASS PT Chair and Secretary and IHO Secretariat's representative (Assistant Director Sam Harper ([adso@iho.int](mailto:adso@iho.int))) as soon as possible and **no later than 31 August 2023**. A meeting of the MASS PT in October 2023 is under consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnus Wallhagen', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Magnus WALLHAGEN

Chair HSSC

Distribution: HSSC Members, IALA and IMO Representatives in HSSC.