

S-128 implementation concerns we can foresee for RENCs, VARS and ECDIS providers.

Issue

UKHO welcome the baselining of V1.0 S-128 and see this as an important step in the S-100 implementation process.

However, we have concerns that the S-128 product will be potentially used as the solution to 3 very different requirements and this may present problems for S-100 adoption/ innovation.

Recommendation

UKHO would like to lead a testbed activity with RENCs, VARs and OEMs to further explore the requirements and solutions including potential recommendations for changes to the S-128 specification and report back to NIPWG

The testing would initially be a logical desk exercise, but later could extend to sea trials across the full value chain of Producer, RENC, VAR and OEM.

Background

UKHO welcome the baselining of V1.0 S-128 and see this as an important step in the S-100 implementation process.

However, we have a concern that the S-128 product will be potentially used as the solution to 3 very different requirements and this may present problems for S-100 adoption/ innovation.

Requirement 1. A Service Provider (such as an HO) will want to produce a catalogue that describes all of the products and services that they provide at a point in time. They are the authority of this catalogue and it should not be modified by a 3rd party.

Requirement 2. Ensure that an ECDIS has the correct products loaded (e.g the correct cells (at the correct scale) for the intended passage).

Requirement 3. Ensure that the products on the ECDIS that are relevant to the intended passage are up to date.

The current S-128 product specification seems to be a very good fit with Requirement 1.

Meeting requirements 2 and 3 with the current product specification have raised some questions and concerns within UKHO that we feel could stifle the sort of innovation that the S-100 era should provide such as:

- 1) Tailored data set delivery to vessels,
- 2) Moving from a historical, weekly update of data (devised in the paper era and carried forward to S-57) to the provision of data as soon as it can be released to improve safety, efficiency, etc.

Examples of the concerns that we have, result in our understanding that S-128 is being thought of as similar to the current PRODUCTS.TXT.

This will present problems for the RENCs who aggregate their members data and sometimes have to remove unsafe products that fail validation. Requirement 1 conflicts with this requirement.

The S-100 era should be designed in a way that VARS and OEMS are able to innovate to provide tailored services and much more frequent delivery of data to the bridge. Requirement 1 will make it difficult to deliver Requirement 2 and 3 using the S-128 product specification in its current format.

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