

IHO File No S3/8151/ MASS PT

CIRCULAR LETTER 38/2021
22 September 2021

**COMPOSITION OF THE MARITIME AUTONOMOUS SURFACE SHIPS (MASS)
NAVIGATION PROJECT TEAM (MASS PT)**

Reference: IHO CL 23/2021 dated 24 June 2021 - *Establishment of the of the Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) navigation Project Team (MASS PT)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Circular Letter in Reference invited Member States to consider nominating representatives and technical experts to participate in the HSSC Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) Navigation Project Team (MASS PT). Member States were also invited to provide possible candidacy as an office bearer.

2. The IHO Secretariat thanks the following 20 Member States who responded: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America. Out of 20 Member States, 13 indicated their intention to participate. The list of nominations is attached at Annex A.

3. Taking into account the one nomination received for the role of Chair, the IHO Secretariat proposes that Mark Casey (United Kingdom) is appointed as Chair. The nominations are reflected in the list of members and subject to no objection being received from the members by 30 September 2021, the IHO Secretariat will invite the Chair to initiate the work of the Project Team. A dedicated MASS PT page will be placed on the IHO website, under HSSC > Miscellaneous.

4. The Terms of Reference for the MASS PT are provided at Annex B for ease of reference. The point of contact within the IHO Secretariat will be Assistant Director Yong Baek (adtd@iho.int).

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,



Abri KAMPFER
Director

Annexes:

- A. List of Members for the HSSC MASS PT
- B. Terms of Reference of the HSSC S-MASS PT

Copy: All MASS PT Members (*by e-mail*)

**HSSC MASS Project Team
List of Members¹**

Member State	Name	E-mail (correspondence)
Brazil	Rodrigo OBINO	obino@marinha.mil.br
	Edson MAGNO	edson.magno@marinha.mil.br
Canada	Annie Biron	Annie.Biron@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
China	SUN DONGLI	sundongli@shmsa.gov.cn
	HU QINYOU	qyhu@shmtu.edu
Denmark	Jakob Terp Christensen	jater@gst.dk
Finland	Mikko Hovi	mikko.hovi@traficom.fi
France	Amandine Lefrançois	amandine.lefrancois@shom.fr
IR of Iran	Mehdi MOUSAVI MAHVELATI	mehdi.mousavi.mahvelati@gmail.com
Japan	Kentaro KANEDA	ico@jodc.go.jp
Norway	Edward Hands	edward.hands@kartverket.no
Republic of Korea	<u>Hwi Gwang Hong</u>	hwi0@korea.kr
	Minchul Jo	jmc723@komsa.or.kr
	Hyunsoo Choi	troychoi@kriso.re.kr
Sweden	Lars Jakobsson	Lars.Jakobsson@Sjofartsverket.se
United Kingdom	Mark Casey (Chair)	mark.casey@ukho.gov.uk
United States of America	Rob Downs	Rob.Downs.@noaa.gov
	Al Armstrong	Albert.E.Armstrong@nga.mil

¹ Name of the main point of contact is underlined.

Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) Navigation Project Team (MASS PT)

Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

(as adopted by HSSC13, May 2021, Decision HSSC13/71 refers)

1. Objectives

One area of concern of MASS is the current lack of specific navigational data that is required to “drive” a MASS or more importantly the lack of any stated rules, regulations or standards relating to navigational data in MASS.

The objectives of the Project Team are:

- a. to identify and prioritize MASS navigation requirements;
- b. to analyse their impacts on current hydrographic standards and services; and
- c. to develop a set of recommendations/issues to be addressed by existing working groups.

The MASS PT has a 2-year mandate. An intermediate status report on the progress made is expected in 2022 (HSSC-14) and a final report and associated deliverables in 2023 (HSSC-15). Decision for the continuation of the MASS PT or for the creation of a dedicated Working Group to be made subsequently in 2023.

2. Authority

The Project Team is a subsidiary of the HSSC. Its work is subject to HSSC approval.

3. Composition and Chair

a) The PT shall comprise representatives of IHO Member States (MS), Expert Contributors (EC), observers from accredited NGOs, and a representative from the IHO Secretariat. A membership list shall be maintained and posted on the IHO website.

b) EC membership is open to entities and organizations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the PT.

c) The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be a representative of an MS. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be decided at the first meeting of the PT after each ordinary session of the Assembly and shall be determined by vote of the MS present and voting.

d) If a secretary is required, it should normally be drawn from a member of the PT.

e) If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair with the same powers and duties.

- f) ECs shall seek approval for membership from the Chair.
- g) EC membership may be withdrawn in the event that a majority of the MS represented in the PT agrees that an EC's continued participation is irrelevant or unconstructive to the work of the WG/PT.
- h) All members shall inform the Chair in advance of their intention or inability to attend meetings of the PT.
- i) In the event that a large number of EC members seek to attend a meeting, the Chair may restrict attendance by inviting ECs to act through one or more collective representatives.

4. Procedures

- a) The PT should work by a combination of correspondence, teleconferences, group meetings, workshops or symposia. The PT should meet at least once a year. When meetings are scheduled, and in order to allow any WG/PT submissions and reports to be submitted to HSSC on time, meetings should not normally occur later than nine weeks before a meeting of HSSC.
- b) Decisions should generally be made by consensus. If votes are required on issues or to endorse proposals presented to the PT, only Members may cast a vote. Votes at meetings shall be on the basis of one vote per Member represented at the meeting. Votes by correspondence shall be on the basis of one vote per Member represented in the PT.
- c) The PT should liaise with other IHO bodies, the Data Quality Working Group in particular for this matter, international organizations and industry representatives to ensure the relevance of its work and timely notice of changes to the standards.
- d) The PT should report to HSSC on its activities and submit a rolling two-year work plan, including expected time frame.