**Guiding Principles**

**Develop guidance on the Implications of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) from a VTS Perspective**

**(Task 1.2.5)**

**Introduction**

The ‘*guiding principles’* provide the framework for drafting guidance on the implications of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) from a VTS Perspective (Task 1.2.5).

The advent of MASS is progressing rapidly with many tests and trials being conducted world-wide.

Safety and efficiency is a primary concern for VTS authorities and it will be necessary to achieve a balance in maintaining high safety standards as well as keeping up with rapid technological developments.

VTS will undoubtedly have a key role to play with MASS and the preparation of such guidance will assist authorities contribute to the safety and efficiency of vessel movements in the VTS area with the advent of MASS.

**Purpose of the document**

The purpose of the document is to assist authorities interact with all ships and contribute to the safety and efficiency of ship movements in the VTS area, recognising:

* The advent of MASS within VTS areas and their interaction with conventional ships.
* The data and information exchange between MASS, conventional ships, VTS and allied services.
* The role of VTS in contributing to the safety and efficiency of navigation and the protection of the environment through:
  + The provision of timely and relevant information on factors that may influence the ship's movements and assist on-board decision making;
  + The monitoring and management of ship traffic to ensure the safety and efficiency of ship movements; and
  + Responding to developing unsafe situations.

**Guiding Principles**

The guiding principles have been prepared based on the assumptions that:

* MASS be required to participate in VTS in the same manner as conventional ships. That is, the same regulatory reporting requirements and obligations with regards to the issue of advice, warnings and instructions as deemed necessary.
* The Task Group should remain cognizant of and contribute to the scoping exercise being progressed by PAP Task Group on the implications of MASS on VTS documents (*PAP41-6.1.5.1 Impact of MASS on Marine AtoN*).

Noting these assumptions, the guidance should be prepared in a form that assists authorities understand the implications of MASS on their interaction with all ships in contributing to the safety and efficiency of vessel movements in the VTS area with the advent of MASS.

In particular the guidance should:

* Consider all four classes of MASS.
* Take into consideration the outcomes from the ‘test beds’ currently being progressed.
* In assessing the implications of MASS, consideration be given to key IALA documentation such as:
  + G1089 – Provision of VTS.
  + GXXXX – VTS Voice Communications and Phraseology, currently being finalised.
  + G1141 - Operational Procedures for Delivering VTS.
  + GXXXX - Maritime services, currently being prepared.

**Evaluating Proposed Text**

As a guide, the following questions should be asked when considering content/proposed text for the guidance:

* Is it consistent with the purpose of the guidance?
* Is it clear and concise?
* Is the topic/issue already prescribed in, or is a cross reference required to, existing IMO and/or IALA documentation?
* Does it add value?
* Is it in conflict with other IALA documentation?