

## Meeting: Pilot project on “Facilitation of ship to shore reporting” – 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Place and date:** Video conference, 29 June 2021

**Agenda item:** Integrated Report Distribution (IRD) version 3 – presentation of new version

**Document number:** 6.3

**Submitted by** EMSA

Summary	The document presents the changes introduced in the last version of the Integrated Report Distribution (IRD) system.
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 3.
Related documents	5.4 IRD phase 3 – progress report 6.4 IRD phase 3 – VDES on-board application – progress report

### 1 Background

For the purpose of this project, a new “Integrated Reports Distribution” (IRD) service has been developed and is being tested with the participating MS. The IRD service uses existing back-end services from the SSN Ecosystem such as EIS, OVR, STAR-ABM and STAR-TRACKING to prepare and distribute to Member States’ coastal stations reports on ships sailing in their areas of interest.

The first version of the IRD aimed at testing connections between the IRD and the various back-end services to prove that the IRD can retrieve, process and integrate data coming from different sources into a single Integrated Ship Report (ISR). The first version was deployed in July 2019.

The second version of the IRD was developed to enrich the ISR with new data sets, to add new distribution methods (system to system and e-mail) and to improve the user web interface based on the feedback received from the users. This version is available to the users since December 2020.

During the facilitation of ship to shore reporting project meetings, the project participants identified another use case aiming at reporting MRS/VTs reports to coastal station by using an on-board application or a web user interface. EMSA presented the concept of ship-to-shore MRS/VTs reporting by electronic means, which, in addition to using existing communication links (internet through 3G, 4G or satellite communication), will test VDE-SAT<sup>1</sup> connection when the ship is sailing on high seas. The proposal was approved by the participants and the content of a IRD phase 3 was agreed.

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<sup>1</sup> The VDES (VHF Data Exchange System), as developed by IALA, will offer a more robust communication platform that allows for better data exchange between ships and between ships and shore via satellites. The new system aims to facilitate the introduction of new applications and services that will improve maritime radio communications significantly. The use of satellite communications in the VDES is facilitating the possibility of having a standardised and automated reporting and improved communications when a ship is outside coastal coverage areas.

## 2 Current status

EMSA worked on the technical specification for the IRD phase 3 and signed the contract for its development in October 2020. The development took place between November 2020 and June 2021. The new version was installed in EMSA Test environment on 8 June 2021 and is currently being tested. It is foreseen to deploy it to the Production environment at the beginning of July 2021.

The following features were added in the IRD phase 3:

- a. development of a specific Graphical User Interface (GUI) for ship data providers to allow them to submit and consult VTS/MRS reports and to consult authorities' responses via Internet;
- b. implementation of a system-to-system interface for exchanging data between the IRD service and the VDE-SAT ground station (operated by Space Norway) to communicate ISRs, VTS/MRS reports and responses from authorities;
- c. extension of the existing ISR message with data from VTS/MRS reports;
- d. updates to the existing GUI for authorities to show VTS/MRS reports received from ships and to add the possibility to provide responses to these reports.

In addition, a specific "on-board application" to be installed on-board test ships and linked to the VDE-SAT equipment is being developed through a specific contract. For more details about this development please refer to the document *6.4 IRD phase 3 – VDES on-board application – progress report*.

EMSA will make a live demonstration of the IRD phase 3 during the meeting.

## 3 Actions required

Member States are invited to:

- Note the information provided and provide feedback on the IRD phase 3;
- Participate in the tests of the new version;
- Inform EMSA about their willingness to establish system to system communications with the IRD. The System Interface Guide (SIG) document is provided in the Annex.