EMSA

European Maritime Safety Agency

Draft Workshop Report

**5th VTM Mediterranean
Expert Working Group**

Held in Lisbon on: 23rd October 2007

Background

Introduction

This was EMSA's fifth Workshop on VTM for Mediterranean maritime Member States, Expert Working Group (EWG) for development of the Mediterranean regional AIS.

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

The meeting was attended by delegations from: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovenia and Turkey. The contractors for the Italian server also participated as part of the Italian delegation. Mr. Urban Hallberg attended on behalf of the European Commission. A copy of the agenda is included as **Annex II**.

Mr Lazaros Aichmalotidis acted as a chairman of the meeting.

The actions as a result of the meeting are listed in section 2,

Note: Fuller presentation details may be obtained by referencing copies of the original papers and presentations, copies of which can be accessed from: http://www.emsa.europa.eu

Workshop Objectives

The main objective of the meeting is to clarify the last remaining technical details that will enable Italy to start the implementation of the server and client applications. There was a review of MS' status of implementation and the workshop also identified tasks and effective timescales to progress further implementation and the contributions that will be made by the Member States.

Workshop Programme

1.   Opening of the meeting

Mr. Emilio Martin Bauza, Head of Unit F, welcomed the participants to the workshop. He referred to current development on traffic monitoring, the subject having "the attention of the politicians" with the clear objective of developing a common system. The discussions in due course will be shown to have been an asset to the Community. The offer by Italy is a generous one. The software is "free of change" and costs to connect being known to the participants.

The participants approved the agenda of **Annex II**.

2. Opening address from the European Commission

The Commission reminded participants that the purpose of developing regional AIS networks was reflected in the interest shown in the European Parliament. There is also a need to look at future possibilities as routeing measures, deep water routes and other preventative measures.

3. Wrap up from previous meeting /approval of the minutes, EMSA (5.MED.2)

Participants were reminded about the main issues discussed at MED AIS EWG meeting 4 as well as the follow up actions.

It was reported by France that on paragraph 8 (Statistics, 4.MED.7), no comments had been received. Minutes approved with comment from France.

4. Levels of security & communication, Italy (5.MED.3)

Italy presented the two possible solutions (one and two way SSL/TLS) concerning the AIS messages secure exchange among the National Proxies and the Regional Server.

The group agreed that the one-way SSL would be applied for the first implementation. This could be changed to two-way SSL at a later date if considered more appropriate.

5. Filtering criteria for the "port of destination" Italy (5.MED.4)

Italy presented the issue of the port Authorities' access rights and the filtering criteria applied to them for limiting their access to AIS information.

The group agreed following the "proxy access approach" proposal and not to give access to the ports. The ports or other LCAs may be connected to their NCA (through a national web or another application) subject to the filtering criteria applied under the NCA responsibility. Italy will provide the web access to limited number of uses (maximum 5 per MS) who will have the full set of access rights (like the NCA).

6. Interface Design Document, Italy (5.MED.5)

Italy presented the Interface Design Document between the AIS National System and the National Proxy. The objective of the document is to provide guidance to the participating countries for exchanging AIS data with the AIS MED Regional Server. The group noticed that the standards that would be applied are already indicated in the report of the 4th meeting and in the STIRES study report.

The group agreed that:
a. The technical questions raised by the paper 5.MED.5 are difficult for the Member States to answer at the current time. Italy would integrate these questions as part of the documentation of the implementation procedures.
b. Italy would produce a consolidated document containing all the requirements and specifications agreed by the group by end of November 2007. The document will be sent to all participating Member States by EMSA.

7. Originator of the AIS reports, Italy (5.MED.6)

Italy presented a solution for avoiding confusion that may be created in the application of the filter related to the originators of the reports. This confusion may happen in cases where AIS reports provided to national systems will be the produced as the result of the combination of several reports originated by different national systems concerning the same vessel (for instance in case of overlapping).

The group agreed that the proposal contained in the paper provides an acceptable solution.

8. Time plan (revised), Italy (5.MED.7)

Italy presented the updated time plan for the implementation of the common Mediterranean AIS network. According to the proposed time plan the final release will be delivered in November 08 and the demonstration phase in May 08.

The group agreed with the proposed time plan.

9. Estimation of the delays, Italy (5.MED.8)

Italy presented an estimation of the network delays, system delays and processing times regarding the communications through the common Med AIS system.

The group recognised that the processing or network delays are less than 10ms and most important may be the internet delays. An important issue that has to be considered is the possible delays of the national AIS network. This data will be forwarded with a delay to the regional. The group agreed that rules for the acceptance of delayed data at the regional server would be applied; similar to those already applied by the Helcom AIS server for the Baltic.

10. MS' status of implementation

The Chairman reminded the MS to cooperate with earlier EMSA requests for information on their base-stations including the antenna heights; the objective being the development of the European AIS Master Plan. To correct an earlier previously announcement, the EMSA workshop in Lisbon on this subject would now be delayed until January or February 2008.

The Member States provided updates on the development of their AIS base-stations and national networks.

Slovenia provided to EMSA their official reply to Italy with their agreement to participate in the common Med AIS network. Italy would send another invitation to Romania, for them to participate in the European AIS network.

11. Access rights, EMSA/Italy (5.MED.9)

The Group were reminded that the purpose of the work being carried out should be to provide a service by distribution of the data and not "to lock it up".

The group agreed with the proposal that more precise criteria as regards the Local Competent Authorities having access to the common AIS system should be defined at a later stage.

On the question of access and the participation of non-Member States to the common Mediterranean system the group noticed that this is rather a political, technical and legal question. The group agreed as a first step, to analyse the results of the first similar discussion taking place in HELCOM as well as of the technical meeting between the Commission, EMSA and the Russian Federation taking place in January 2008.

12. "Things to do" list for the MS, Italy (5.MED.10)

Italy presented an updated "things to do" list for the Med Member States in respect to their participation in the common Med AIS system.

Italy invited the Med Member States to participate in the demonstration phase. Spain, Malta and Bulgaria representatives announced that their countries will participate in the demonstration phase. Other Member States wishing to participate may express their wish to Italy by December 07.

The group agreed that Italy would continue to develop the system software using the Windows platform. At the same time Italy would consider the possibility of providing a Linux option. If this proved impracticable, they would also explore cooperating with France for them to produce their own Linux version of the proxy software, though it was recognised that this may create problems harmonising introduction of future proxy updates.

At the request of the chairman, Italy would consider providing a "light software" service to the participating Member States that will allow the display of the common AIS data on a GIS platform as well as its storage for a short period. This software should be used for presentation purposes.

13. Date of next meeting

The results of the Med AIS demonstration phase will be presented at Med AIS 6. The tentative date of the Med AIS 6 EWG meeting is the 20th of May 2008 (the day before the next planned SafeSeaNet meeting).

14. Meeting Follow-up Actions

a. Italy would continue the development of the regional and proxy application based on the agreed user requirements and technical standards. According to the time plan the final release will be delivered in November 08 and the demonstration phase in May 08.
b. Italy would produce a consolidated document containing all the requirements and specifications agreed by the group by end of November 2007. The document will be sent to all Med Member States by EMSA.
c. The Med Member States will provide updates on the development of their AIS base-stations and national networks.
d. Spain, Malta and Bulgaria will participate in the demonstration phase. Other Member States wishing to participate may express their wish to Italy by December 07.
e. Italy would send another invitation to Romania, for them to participate in the common Med AIS network.
f. Italy would continue to develop the system software using the Windows platform. At the same time they would consider the possibility of providing a Linux option. If this proved impracticable, they would also explore cooperating with France for them to produce their own Linux version of the proxy software.
g. Italy would consider providing a "light software" service to the participating Member States that will allow the display of the common AIS data on a GIS platform as well as its storage for a short period.

Annex:

I) List of participants

II) Workshop Agenda.

ANNEX I – List of Participants

Attendance list

Country	Title	Surname	First name	Organization		Email
Malta	Mr	Gabriele	Richard	Malta Maritime Authority		richard.gabriele@mma.gov.mt
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Greece	Mr	Stathopoulos	Athanasios	Ministry of Mercantile Marine	danvluis@yen.gz
Italy	Mr	Aulicino	Giuseppe	Italian Coast Guard	
Italy	Mr	BENALIA Carlone	GIAMPASCO Nicola	Italian Coast Guard	
Italy	Mr				
Italy	Mr				

Turkey	Mr	Öngür	Murat	General Directorate for Coastal Safety and Salvage	mongur@coastalsafety.gov.tr
	Mr.	Halberg	Urban	European Commission	.

ANNEX II

Agenda
5th Mediterranean EWG Meeting

23 October 2007

09:00	Registration and coffee	
09:30	Welcome address and approval of the agenda	EMSA
09:45	Wrap up from previous meeting /approval of the minutes	EMSA (STIRES5/MED/1)
10:05	Levels of security & communication	Italy (STIRES 5/MED/2)
11:20	Filtering criteria for the "port of destination"	Italy (STIRES 5/MED/3)
11:30	Coffee break	
11:45	Interface Design Document	Italy (STIRES 5/MED/4)
12:15	Originator of the AIS reports	Italy (STIRES 5/MED/5)
12:45	Lunch break	
14:00	Time plan (revised)	Italy (STIRES 5/MED/6)
14:20	Estimation of the delays	Italy (STIRES 5/MED/7)
14:40	MS' status of implementation	Med MS
15:30	Coffee break	
15:45	Access rights	EMSA/Italy (STIRES 5/MED/8)
16:15	"Things to do" list for the MS	Italy (STIRES 5/MED/9)
17:30	End of Meeting	