



European Maritime Safety Agency

## **Workshop Report**

### **6<sup>th</sup> VTM Mediterranean Expert Working Group**

Held in Rome on: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008

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## Background

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### Introduction

This was EMSA's sixth 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, Greece, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Slovenia. The contractors for the Italian server also participated as part of the Italian delegation. 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>

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## Workshop Objectives

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The main objective of the meeting was to discuss and assess the results of the demonstration phase that launched in late May 2008 with the participation of Italy, Spain and Bulgaria. There was also a discussion for further improvements and on the status of each Member State current situation and plans.

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## Workshop Programme

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### 1. Opening of the meeting

Admiral Catsopo of the Italian Coast Guard welcomed the participants to the workshop. He referred to current development on the common AIS Mediterranean server and confirmed the dedication of Italy to deliver the best possible product. He thanked the participating MSs for collaboration and EMSA for supporting and leading the development.

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

### 2. Opening address from EMSA

EMSA reminded participants the purpose of developing regional AIS networks and mentioned that by summer 2009 the Med AIS network will be integrated into the new STIRES project that will be integrated into SafeSeaNet. EMSA also thanked Italy for its offer that is a generous one.

### 3. Wrap up from previous meeting /approval of the minutes, EMSA (6.MED.3)

Participants were reminded about the main issues discussed at MED AIS EWG meeting 5 as well as the follow up actions.

Minutes approved without any comment.

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#### **4. Report on the demonstration phase**

##### **a. Italy, Bulgaria Spain and EMSA participation**

Italy presented the demonstration phase report (STIRES 6/MED/5) which refers to the hardware used, the bugs encountered as well as some statistics about the bandwidth requirements. Italy, Bulgaria, Spain and EMSA (as data requester) were connected to the regional server without any major problems or malfunctions and currently the system covers a population of 3000-3500 vessels.

##### **b. Malta and Slovenia participation**

Malta confirmed that they received the proxy software and by 13/6/08 they will participate in the demonstration phase. Slovenia also confirmed that they are willing to participate in the demonstration phase by 20/6/08.

##### **c. Denmark and Norway participation in testing**

Italy suggested more MS to participate in the demonstration phase in order to give the possibility to stress the system. Greece, Romania, Portugal and France replied that they are not yet ready to participate; however as soon as their systems will be completed they will.

The group agreed EMSA to contact Denmark and Norway to explore the possibility of linking their systems to the common Mediterranean server for facilitating the stress testing.

##### **d. Web interface**

In addition to the proxy server, Italy is currently developing the web interface. Italy will send to all Med MS the web interface (one user account per each MS) for testing purposes by the end of July 08.

##### **e. Light software**

Italy provided the "light software" service to the Member States participating in the demonstration phase. This software allows the display of the common AIS data on a GIS platform as well as its storage for a short period.

#### **5. Suggestions / requirements for improving the system**

The group discussed about possible improvements. The results of the discussions are:

##### **a. Filtering criteria**

Member States questioned about the filtering criteria and specifically the procedures followed regarding deletion of duplicates.

The group agreed that Italy will provide some additional clarifications about the "duplicates management".

##### **b. Measurements in NM and Km**

Spain requested the application to give the possibility of measuring distances in nm and km.

Italy agreed to implement this improvement.

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### **c. Colours corresponding to “ship types”**

Member States requested the system to indicate the vessels in different colours corresponding to the “ship type”.

The group agreed that EMSA will explore the symbology method adopted by the VTS Committee of IALA and will propose a similar symbology for the Med AIS as well as for SSN.

### **d. System availability**

EMSA proposed to Italy to develop a functionality that will provide automatic measurements of the system availability.

Italy agreed to develop this functionality.

### **e. Second IP, bandwidth consumption, hardlock key substitution**

Spain proposed the following improvements:

- Create possibility to receive national AIS information from a second IP for those Member States that maintain two national servers;
- Develop a tool to visualise the bandwidth consumption;
- Utilize as product key a string instead the present hardlock key.

Italy agreed to develop the second functionality while for the first and third will come back to the group at Med AIS 7 after further investigation.

### **f. Proxy application as service**

Portugal proposed to Italy to review proxy application design in order to run as a “Windows service”, which could be configured to start automatically when the operating system is booted and run in the background as long as Windows is running, or it can be started manually when required.

Italy agreed to investigate this proposal and to come back with an answer at Med AIS 7.

## **6. Review of documentation**

### **a. System specifications document**

Italy presented the guidelines document for “users in the common Med Network” (document STIRES 6/MED/4). This document is considered as the system specification document.

The group agreed that this document will become one of the reference documents of the common Med AIS system. The entire proposal for improvements will be materialised only when they will be agreed by the group and reflected in the “system specifications” document. For tracing the system changes and evolution the history of the changes will be kept.

The group agreed that Italy will update the “system specifications” document as appropriate.

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## **b. Users manual**

Italy presented the national AIS proxy user manual (document STIRES 6/MED/2). This document is considered as the "user manual".

The group also agreed that the "user manual" will also be considered as the second reference document containing all the information necessary for the Member States users to install and run the national application.

The group agreed that Italy will update the "user manual" with additional information concerning guidelines on the web access interface.

## **7. Participation of France**

Italy explained that would they will continue to develop the system software using the Windows, maintaining only one NAISP version. At present, the NAISP CORE application is written using only the C++ functions without using any Windows libraries. Therefore, NAISP CORE is expected to run on LINUX platform as well. On the other hand, NAISP GUI application uses Windows libraries. NAISP CORE and NAISP GUI are linked through a TCP/IP connection.

Regarding the development of a Linux option Italy offered to France to explore the preference among the following three options:

- a. Install both NAISP CORE and GUI applications on a platform where a virtual machine simulates Windows operating system running over a LINUX environment;
- b. Install NAISP CORE on a LINUX platform and NAISP GUI on a platform where a virtual machine simulates Windows operating system running over a LINUX environment;
- c. Install NAISP CORE on a LINUX platform and NAISP GUI on a Microsoft Windows environment.

France agreed to provide feedback to Italy as well as the details of their hosting infrastructure to Italy by the 13<sup>th</sup> June 08.

## **8. Italian coast Guard Headquarters operational duties**

Italy gave a presentation of their traffic monitoring applications. The group noticed that from the operational point of view, sharing of common picture will promote the cooperation among the Member States. Moreover integration of the different systems will facilitate the exchange of information among the Member States.

## **9. Time plan (revised), Italy (STIRES/5.MED.7)**

The group reviewed the time plan agreed at Med AIS EWG 5 and agreed that the project is in due course. There is no need to update the existing time plan whereby the final release will be delivered in November 08.

The group agreed with the proposed time plan.

## **10. MS' status of implementation**

**Bulgaria** mentioned that the Black Sea server is in operation and Member States may participate. They also addressed an invitation to the Black Sea Commission proposing the other countries of the Black Sea to participate on a voluntary basis.

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**Slovenia** said that SSN is their priority and they will participate in the demonstration phase by 20/6/08.

**Greece** said that they are in the process of development and they expect to be ready by the end of 2008.

**Romania** mentioned that they plan to use the PHARE resources for covering their coast. Currently more than 50% of the coast is covered.

**France** said that their Mediterranean network is currently under testing. France will send to EMSA the updates about the AIS base stations details.

**Portugal** is developing their national AIS network consisting of 11 AIS base stations. Their AIS picture will be integrated with the VTS in a common traffic image.

**Spain** has already developed their AIS infrastructure that is fully operational since December 2006.

**Italy** mentioned that they have 46 AIS base stations and they are evaluating the requirement to install additional 10 within 2009.

**Romania** will send to Italy and EMSA their official response regarding their participation in the Med AIS network.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

Next meeting will be scheduled in December when all Member States are expected to link to the common Mediterranean AIS network. According to the agreed time plan the deadline for this connection is the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 08. The tentative date of the Med AIS 7 EWG meeting is the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2008.

## **12. 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. The requirements of par. 5.a, 5.b, 5.d and 5.e (second bullet) will be implemented as soon as possible and before the Med AIS 7.
- b. Italy would investigate the possibility of implementing the additional functionalities of par. 5.e (first and third bullet) and 5f and will inform accordingly the Med AIS 7.
- c. EMSA would explore the symbology method adopted by the VTS Committee of IALA (as agreed in par. 5.c).
- d. Italy will perform the updating of the system specifications and user manual
- e. France would provide feedback to Italy as well as the details of their hosting infrastructure to Italy by the 13<sup>th</sup> June 08.
- f. Romania will send to Italy and EMSA their official response regarding their participation in the Med AIS network.
- g. Malta and Slovenia will participate in the demonstration phase by 13/6/08 and 20/6/08 respectively.
- h. EMSA will contact Denmark and Norway to explore the possibility of linking their systems to the common Mediterranean server for facilitating the stress testing.
- i. France will provide EMSA with updates on their AIS development of the Mediterranean coast.
- j. Italy asked all MS participating in the demonstration phase to maintain their connection to the Regional server "open" continuously.

**Annex:**

- I) List of participants
- II) Workshop Agenda

### ANNEX I – List of Participants

BULGARIA	DIMITROV	Victor	EAMA-BSSR	<a href="mailto:victor@vtmis.net">victor@vtmis.net</a>	+35952684943
EMSA	AICHMALOTIDIS	Lazaros	EMSA	<a href="mailto:lazaros.aichmalotidis@emsa.europa.it">lazaros.aichmalotidis@emsa.europa.it</a>	+351211209249
FRANCE	GUICHOUX	Yann	CETMEF	<a href="mailto:yann.guichoux@equipement.gouv.fr">yann.guichoux@equipement.gouv.fr</a>	+330298058803
GREECE	STATHOPOULOS	Athanasios	Hellenic Ministry of Mercantile Marine	<a href="mailto:danvtmis@yen.gr">danvtmis@yen.gr</a>	+302104137796
ITALY	AULICINO	Giuseppe	Coast Guard	<a href="mailto:giuseppe.aulicino@infrastrutturetrasporti.it">giuseppe.aulicino@infrastrutturetrasporti.it</a>	+390659083366
ITALY	PELLIZZARI	Piero	Coast Guard	<a href="mailto:piero.pellizzari@trasporti.gov.it">piero.pellizzari@trasporti.gov.it</a>	+390766366422
ITALY	FIORI	Pierluigi	ELMAN Srl	<a href="mailto:p.fiori@elmansrl.it">p.fiori@elmansrl.it</a>	+39069194405
ITALY	BORGHESE	Francesco	ELMAN Srl	<a href="mailto:f.borghese@elmansrl.it">f.borghese@elmansrl.it</a>	+39069194405
MALTA	GABRIELE	Richard	Malta Maritime Authority	<a href="mailto:richard.gabriele@mma.gov.it">richard.gabriele@mma.gov.it</a>	+35699494312
MALTA	SPITERI	Paul	Malta Maritime Authority	<a href="mailto:paul.spiteri@mma.gov.it">paul.spiteri@mma.gov.it</a>	+35679434310
PORTUGAL	SEQUEIRA	Rui	IPTM,IP	<a href="mailto:rui.sequeira@imarpor.pt">rui.sequeira@imarpor.pt</a>	+351213914793
ROMANIA	ICHIM	Iulian	Romanian Naval Authority	<a href="mailto:iichim@ma.ro">iichim@ma.ro</a>	+40241616219/222
SLOVENIA	STEFFE	Arturo	Maritime Administration of Republic Slovenia	<a href="mailto:artur.steffe@goc.si">artur.steffe@goc.si</a> <a href="mailto:ursp.box@gov.si">ursp.box@gov.si</a>	+38656632108
SPAIN	MARTINEZ	JORGE	SASEMAR	<a href="mailto:jorgemm@sasemar.es">jorgemm@sasemar.es</a>	+34917559146
SPAIN	RUIZ DE LOBERA	Alfonso	SASEMAR	<a href="mailto:interoper@sasemar.es">interoper@sasemar.es</a>	+34917559160



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## ANNEX II

### Agenda 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean EWG Meeting

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008

09.30	Registration and coffee	
09.45	Opening of meeting and adoption of the agenda	EMSA (STIRES 6/MED1)
10.00	Wrap up of previous meeting/approval of minutes	EMSA (STIRES 6/MED3)
10.15	Mediterranean Regional AIS summary	Italy (STIRES 6/MED/4)
	Report of the demonstration phase	Italy (STIRES 6/MED/5)
	Troubles encountered during the demonstration phase	Italy (STIRES 6/MED/5)
11.30	Coffee break	
11.45	Suggestions/requirements for improving of the exchange system	
12.30	Lunch break	
14.00	Italian Coast Guard Headquarters operational duties	Italy
14.20	Visit to IMRCC	Italy
15.00	Coffee break	
15.15	MS status of implementation	Med MS
15.45	Review of document " <i>User Manual – NAISP National AIS Proxy</i> "	Italy (STIRES 6/MED/2)
	Discussion / conclusions	
17.30	End of the meeting/ Date of next meeting	