PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ERC SYSTEM PREPARED

Following the first publication of Electronic Reference Chart (ERC), called ECS in IMO, in December 1993 (see EAHC Newsletter No. 13), covering certain maritime traffic congested areas in Japanese waters, Japan Hydrographic Association (JHA) has been taking the leading role in preparation of performance standards for ERC system (ERCS) under the guidance and direction of the Hydrographic Department of Japan (JHD).

A study group organized by JHA, composed of experts from JHD, JHA, Tokyo Mercantile Marine University as well as electronic/navigational/radio equipment manufacturers in Japan, has long been engaged in studying and developing specifications of the ERCS, including those for symbols and colours used on the ERC display, and the performance standards for ERCS have recently been prepared in conformity with, as practicable as possible, the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS. The standards are intended to ensure the safe operation of ERC by providing ERCS manufacturers with guidance and specifications to be adopted on ERCS in order to ensure the safety of navigation using the system.

A special publication "Performance Standards for ENC System" prepared by JHA gives specifications for chart information adopted on ERC, which include:

- *Display Base* items such as coastlines, depth contour lines, limiting danger lines, traffic separation schemes;
- *Standard Display* items such as limits of fairways, aids to navigations;
- *Demand Display* items such as numbers and scales of paper charts adopted on ERC, compilation date of ERC.

The specifications also include those for ship's positions and tracks, and symbols and colours, e.g. white solid lines for coastlines, light-blue solid lines for 10m contours, light-blue dashed lines for 20m contours, as well as those provisions for route planning, alarming, track recording procedures, and computation accuracy for ship's positioning.

The publication has widely been distributed to various manufacturers, institutions and agencies concerned, creating their sensational responses, and other several electronic companies are now showing their interest in manufacturing ERC system.

ERCS (two displays on the center of console) set in the total bridge system of a ship

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