

One Ocean Summit – 2022 Brest

S-100: a new standard for navigation safety and ocean protection

Opening Speech

Mathias Jonas, Secretary-General of the International Hydrographic Organisation

Reminder of the overall objective of the IHO and highlighting the S-100

Prior to the opening of the technical presentations, the SG of IHO, Mathias Jonas made some principle remarks on the relevance of global standardization for digital data. He argued that many of the latest significant leaps in technology were predominantly initiated by software development. The major software provider, in his view, aspire to set up specific software ecosystems based on powerful hardware. Technical ecosystems of this kind are Apple and Microsoft to some extent.

This concept however cannot apply to the maritime domain since international regulatory frameworks such as IMO and IHO standards prevent this. The latter is working on an ecosystem for maritime data named S-100 which is strictly based on ISO's open standards for geoinformation. This framework offers customization of thematic data product specifications according to the specific needs of the data clients. Though those data products are individually shaped, they all are based on the same modelling paradigm and remain mutually interoperable therefore. A good analogy are mobile phones which are open platforms for compatible apps from diverse suppliers accessing commonly to the hardware functions like storage, processing, connectivity, positioning, time and geo-tagging. Standardization has always to parties involved - those who work out the standards and those who apply.

Mathias Jonas expressed his excitement that harbour industry has become an early adopter of this IHO standard series. The combination of geoinformation software developers and harbour operators forms the perfect incubator to make the S-100 concept approach a reality.

Mathias Jonas



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