European Maritime Safety Agency

Meeting: 15th IMS Group User Consultation Meeting (UCM#15)

Place and date: Lisbon, 22 October 2020

Agenda item: 4.5 – IMS Correspondence Expert Group on "Drift modelling"

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Submitted by EMSA

Summary	This paper provides further information and updated Terms of Reference for the IMS correspondence Group on Drift Modelling.
Action to be taken	As per Section 4
Related documents	Minutes of UCM#12 and UCM#13

1. Background

At IMS Group UCM#12, agenda item 4 and parallel session 2 were focused on discussing SAR drift modelling tool. As a result, two actions were agreed:

UCM-12/03: EMSA to contact the MS interested in being part of the Drift Modelling Expert Group and

UCM-12/04: EMSA to draft and circulate proposal for Terms of Reference of Drift Modelling Expert Group.

At IMS Group UCM#13 the draft Terms of Reference were presented and validated and at IMS Group UCM#14, several Member States confirmed their interest in participating.

Currently 22 experts from 10 Member States are nominated to participate to this working group.

2. Proposal

Because the work on this expert group have not started yet, it appears that some updates are needed with regards to the terms of reference.These updates don't change the essence of the deliverables, they only propose:

- to have the possibility to work by videoconference when needed (and not only by e-mail);
- to fine tune the timing for the expected deliveries and adoption of the deliverables and
- that the expert group mandate will also include the tool's testing and validation.

The updated Terms of Reference are available in Annex A below in track changes.

3. Action Required

IMS Member States are invited to:

- take note of the above information
- provide feedback on the updated Terms of Reference of the IMS Correspondence Expert Group on “Drift modelling” and
- agree to propose these updated ToR for their adoption by the HLSG.

Annex A – Updated Terms of Reference of the IMS Correspondence Expert Group on "Drift Modelling"

IMS Correspondence Expert Group on "Drift Modelling"

Terms of Reference (updated)

1. Mandate

As agreed at the IMS Group 12th User Consultation Meeting (UCM#12), the IMS Correspondence Expert Group on "Drift Modelling" should propose *Guidelines* for developing an operational IMS Drift Modelling tool to be used for Search and Rescue and other Maritime Safety purposes. These Guidelines shall take into consideration the following high-level principles:

- **The Tool shall follow the IMASAR Standards and Recommendations;**
- **The Tool shall support cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation, and where necessary, collaboration;**
- **EMSA will not develop a new proprietary Drift Model, but will include the possibility to connect to several existing state-of-the-art drift models through standard interfaces, hence allowing to benefit from the drift model most adapted to the local circumstances of the event;**
- **The Tool shall be simple and intuitive for operators of all levels and experiences.**

The objective of the *Guidelines* is to gather expert knowledge on the user needs and thus have a common understanding of the features and functionalities to be implemented in the IMS Drift Modelling Tool.

The *Guidelines* will thus provide requirements on the drift parameters for connecting to existing models and on how to display results in the IMS graphical map interfaces (SEG and IMS Mobile App).

2. Deliverables of the Group

The IMS Correspondence Expert Group on "Drift Modelling" shall provide the following deliverables:

Deliverable 1: a brief evaluation of the existing public and commercial Search & Rescue and other Maritime Safety purposes drift models.

Deliverable 2: requirements for the development of an operational IMS Drift Modelling tool. The requirements shall cover, *inter-alia*, the following topics:

- **Identification of user work flow (e.g. request one (or more) simulations to be routed to "external" model(s));**
- **List of configurable drift parameters for input to the model;**
- **List of different types of objects whose drift should be simulated;**
- **Options for display of drift results (e.g. probability of results);**
- **Definition of user specific near-real time met-ocean data inputs;**
- **Configuration, selection and display of search patterns based on the output model results;**
- **Display of results in the SEG.**

3. Resources and Members of the Group

Each country participating in IMS, as well as the European Commission, can nominate members. Representatives of industry with an expertise in Drift Modelling, may be invited by the Members with previous consultation of the secretariat, to provide ad-hoc expert advice. EMSA will provide the secretariat and will coordinate the drafting of the deliverables on behalf of the members of the group.

The expert group will work by email correspondence and via videoconference when needed.

4. Timing

1. **The first deliverable will be submitted to the IMS Group UCM#16 (tentative date May 2021).**
2. **The second deliverable will be submitted to the IMS Group UCM#17 (tentative date October 2021).**
3. **Should these deliverables will be validated by the IMS group, they will be introduced to the HLSG for adoption.**

5. Duration of these ToR

The mandate of the IMS Correspondence Expert Group on "Drift Modelling" will expire upon completion of all agreed deliverables and tasks.

This mandate also covers the implementation phase, i.e. the supplementary period when the *tool* will be technically implemented. In this phase the IMS Correspondence Expert Group on "Drift Modelling" will be tasked to test and validate the tool.