

Meeting minutes

Technical Working Group on a pilot
project for maritime surveillance

Madrid 31 May 2010

Background

As a follow up to second meeting between EMSA and the 3 Member States (France, Italy and Spain) in Vigo on the 4th of December 2009, the third meeting on maritime surveillance took place at the premises of SASEMAR in Madrid. The main objective of the meeting was to agree the EMSA technical proposal for exchanging radar data through SSN and to update the work plan.

Lazaros Aichmalotidis (LAI) acted as the chairman of the meeting, assisted by Yann Le Moan (YLM). The agenda is attached at Annex 1. The list of participants is attached at Annex 2.

All the documentation presented, including power point presentations and this report are available at: <https://extranet.emsa.europa.eu> under Vessel Traffic & Reporting Services and AIS based initiatives.

Workshop Objectives

The objectives were to discuss and agree between the experts of EMSA, Italy, Spain, France, on the operational concept and technical proposal to exchange VTS-radar data through SafeSeaNet; and to report on the progress and planning on the VMS/SSN synergies pilot project.

Workshop Programme

1. Opening / Introduction (EMSA)

The meeting was opened Mr. Jesus Uribe Echaburu, director of operations, SASEMAR. He welcomed the participants and wished a fruitful meeting on the pilot projects. LAI thanked Mr. Echaburu, recalled the importance of the pilot projects and highlighted that, despite the limited resources allocated, the expectations are high for concrete results in the short term.

2. Approval of the minutes and of the agenda

The minutes of the previous meeting (held in Vigo in December 2009) and the agenda were approved. For the scope of the meeting the following 6 working documents have been circulated:

- PPMS/02/01: draft agenda
- PPMS/03/02: minutes from previous meeting
- PPMS/02/03: concept of VTS/radar pilot project
- PPMS/02/04: VTS/Radar data exchange through SSN - technical specifications
- PPMS/02/05: IALA recommendation on Inter-VTS Exchange Format (IVEF) Service

3. Pilot project overview

3.1 VMS/SSN pilot project

EMSA made an overview of the pilot project and introduced the outcomes of meeting with maritime directors from France Italy and Spain (Lisbon 10 March 2010). The main milestones of the pilot project are:

- completion of the implementation phase (end of October),
- acceptance tests (beginning of December)
- launching of the for 6 months
- A dedicated working group will analyse the results of the pilot project in June 2011,

LAI recalled that the format of the exchange between FMCs and EMSA is a key element for the pilot project. In order to confirm the format and involve FMCs directly, LAI proposed a meeting between the 3 FMCs and EMSA. Spain will contact its FMC to investigate whether the Spanish FMC could host this meeting at its premises. EMSA will also contact the French administration to inform them on the proposed meeting.

The group **agreed** that:

- a) A meeting with the the 3 FMCs will be held in July.
- b) Spain will contact the Spanish FMC to propose them to host the meeting and EMSA will contact the French administration to inform them on the meting
- c) Based on the feedback of the MSs, EMSA will set-up a list of the ships participating in the pilot project
- d) There is a need to identify the members of the working group which will analyse the outcomes and report on the pilot project.

3.2 Radar/VTS pilot project

YLM recalled the minutes and the actions agreed during the last meeting (Vigo, 4 December 2009). LAI explained the benefits of exchanging the radar image with the example of a common picture between France and Italy (Bonifacio Straits) covered by both France and Italy. The sharing of a common picture upon request would be interesting for both monitoring centre.

Italy explained that their VTSs are connected using a specific protocol. The Italian VTS architecture is a one-way architecture (data sent from the local VTSs to the regional ones and then to the national VTS). Italy has already the capacity to send to SSN-STIRES (through IEC format) radar data and proposed to initiate an early testing. EMSA recalled that for accessing SSN-STIRES the Conditions of Use have to be signed by France and Spain.

The group **agreed** that:

- e) An early testing with Italy (through MAREΣ) to provide radar data to SSN-STIRES will be initiate soon.

4. Concept of VTS/Radar pilot project

YLM introduced the updated Concept paper which simplifies the initially presented operational scenario (display the radar image through SSN-STIRES upon a request response mechanism). The SSN architecture/philosophy will be used to exchange radar traffic images between different areas with the resulting images presented on the existing GIS and charts as an additional layer of information.

As a first step the SSN-STIRES interface will be used for displaying a a down sampling "VTS radar image" associated with the current STIRES image. A specific human-machine interface will be part of a possible second step of the project aiming at displaying a real time picture (no down sampling of data).

A meeting at director's level, between EMSA and the 3 MSs, to discuss how to best progress the pilot project (after the summer holidays) was recognised as a significant key step.

The group **agreed** that:

- f) The concept paper is validated
- g) A meeting at director level (after summer holidays) is desirable to validate the technical work and go further with the implementation.

5. Member States' status

The MSs provided information about their status:

Spain informed the group that they would connect the VTSs of Finistere, Tarifa and Almeira. They should be interested in having a continuous data flow of radar images gathered at at national level

France is still holding internal discussions for the opening of their radar network (developed by the navy) for civilian purposes. An internal meeting is planned at the beginning of July to validate the format for exchange. The earliest date to export data (under IVEF) would be September.

Italy is ready to provide radar tracks through MARΣ to SSN-STIRES. There is no budget impact foreseen for this initial testing (providing of radar data for non identified ship to SSN-STIRES). For implementing a request/response mechanism, IT will need to modify the software by setting up a new message for request.

The group **agreed** that:

- h) Italy will provide to EMSA information about the bandwidth with or without the radar data for the group to evaluate the impact on the communication process.

6. Technical specifications of VTS/Radar pilot project

For the **first phase** EMSA proposed to implement an IVEF type of interface and a proxy interface providing data in ITU/ IEC AIS messaging formats. The user (requestor) will use the SSN STIRES interface. The data will be down-sampled at a configurable rate.

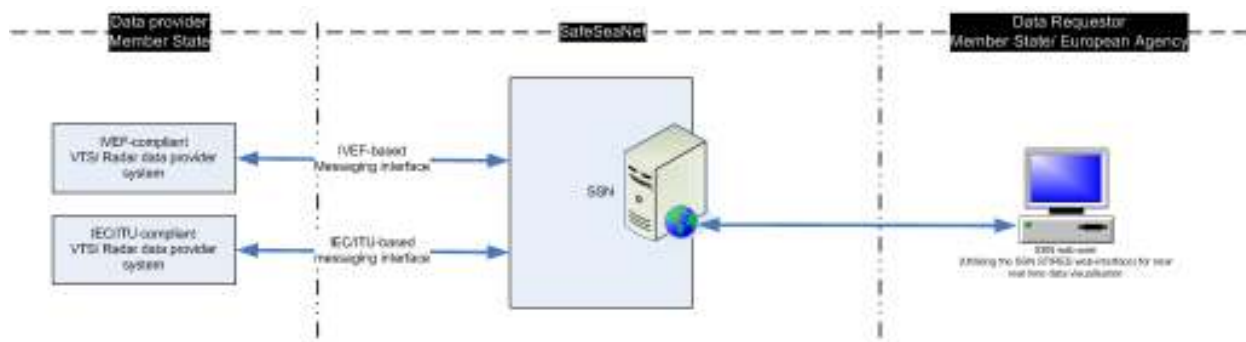


Figure 1: Scope of work – firm phase I

A possible **second phase** (to evaluate further after the feed back of phase 1) would include:

- Provision of the data (under IVEF or IEC format) to the MS application
- The setting-up of the SSN graphic human-machine interfaces (HMI), SSN-RADAR. Should a user will choose to use the SSN-radar interface, the radar tracks will be visualised without down-sampling at the rate of updating received by the originator.

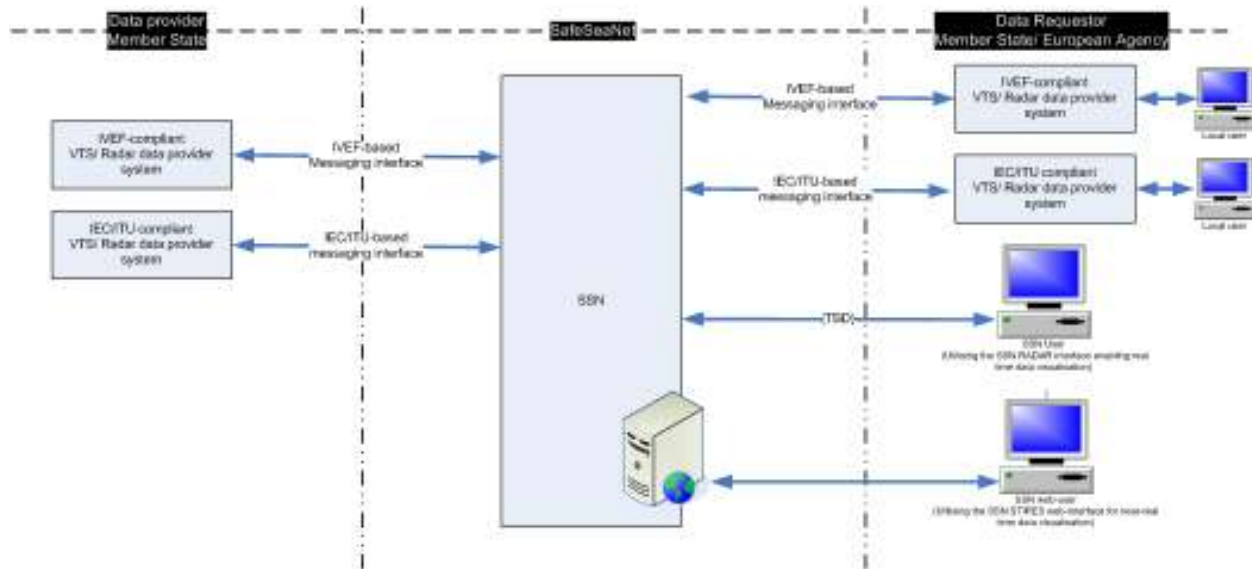


Figure 2: Scope of work – **Optional phase II**

The group requested clarification about the duplication of data and whether IVEF is able to provide AIS+radar or only radar data (not supported by AIS enrichment). EMSA will provide the answer by correspondence.

Italy proposes the proxy not to prevent the AIS message 8.

The group **agreed** that:

- The technical specifications are validated
- EMSA will amend figure 2 to reflect the situations of the MS (FR, SP using IVEF and IT IEC).

7. Introduction of the IALA draft recommendation for IVEF

YLM explained that the draft IALA IVEF standard will be introduced at the IALA VTS committee by September and approval by IALA is expected in the first quarter 2011. This standard proposes a format of exchange based on an XML protocol allowing the inter VTS data exchange. This protocol is already used by the Netherlands coast-guards. Spain and France are interested in using this format for implementing the VTS-Radar through SSN.

8. Discussions

Italy precised that the data will be sent to SSN on a streamed mode for the non identified targets only. Italy agrees to share all the information (for the full VTS coverage) with France and Spain for the pilot.

France recalls that September is the most optimistic date to exchange radar data through SSN using IVEF format. Spain confirms their willingness to use the IVEF format.

Conclusions / Follow-up Actions

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman, identifying its outcomes as very positive and highlighting that the participating MSs are getting closer to the pilot project's implementation.

The main **agreements** of the meeting were:

- The concept paper and the technical specifications are validated
- an early testing with Italy (through MAREΣ) to provide radar data to SSN-STIRES will be initiate soon

The meeting's follow-up actions are:

- a) A meeting with the 3 FMCs should be held in July.
- b) Spain will contact the Spanish FMC to propose them to host the meeting and EMSA will contact the French administration to inform them on the meting
- c) Based on the feedback of the MSs, EMSA will set-up a list of the ships participating in the pilot project
- d) There is a need to identify the members of the working group which will analyse the outcomes and report on the pilot project.
- e) Italy will provide information about the bandwidth with or without the radar data for the group to evaluate the impact on the communication process.
- f) EMSA will amend figure 2 to reflect the situations of the MS (FR, SP using IVEF and IT IEC).

Annex 1: Agenda

Annex 2: List of participants

Annex 1

**DRAFT AGENDA
OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE PILOT PROJECT
ON VTS/RADAR DATA EXCHANGE THROUGH SSN
(Madrid - 31 MAY, 2010)**

Monday 31/05/2010		
09:00 – 09:30	Registration	
09:30 – 10:00	I. Introduction Opening / Introduction/ Welcome to participants Approval of the Agenda	Spain / EMSA All
10:00 – 10:30	II. Minutes from previous meeting	(PPMS/03/02)
10:30 – 11:00	III. Pilot projects overview VTS/radar pilot project overview Pilot project on the VMS/SSN synergies overview Directors meeting on maritime surveillance pilot projects	(PPMS/03/06)
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15 – 12:00	IV. Concept of VTS/radar pilot project	(PPMS/03/03)
12:00 – 12:45	V. VTS/radar data exchange through SafeSeaNet - technical specification	(PPMS/03/04)
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:30	VI. IALA Recommendations on the Inter-VTS Exchange Format (IVEF) Service	(PPMS/03/05)
14:30 – 15:30	VII. Discussions	All
15:30 – 16:00	VIII. Decisions - Follow-up actions	All
16:00	End of the meeting	

Annex 2

List of Participants (Madrid 31 May 2010)

	<u>Name Surname</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
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