

**2nd Meeting of the LRIT NCA's
SafeSeaNet Workshop no 13
Lisbon, 26 March 2010**

**Agenda item 10
SSN 13/2/1 (v.1.0)
23 April 2010**

SSN ISSUES

SSN-STIRES rolling out

Submitted by EMSA

<i>Executive summary</i>	Provides information on plans for rolling-out of SSN-STIRES including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporation of comments and suggestions from MS future users out of the training program(EMSA) and from MSs generally (MSs)• Proxy Pilot tests (EMSA)• Plans for SSN/STIRES future development (EMSA)
<i>Action to be taken</i>	As per paragraph 4
<i>Related documents</i>	SSN XML Reference Guide 2.03

1. BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS ON SSN-STIRES

Training on SSN-STIRES was provided to 54 experts of the MSs in February 2010 from courses of 1.5 day's duration. These included explanations of the architecture and the functionalities of the application and operational scenarios in use of these functionalities.

SSN-STIRES was officially launched into production on the 10 of March 2010. Since the invitation of 29 March, 15 signed Conditions of Use have been received back by EMSA.

2. COMMENTS – FEED-BACK FROM MSS

During the SSN-STIRES training, the responses and opinions of potential users out of the three sessions were very positive and useful suggestions were received for improving the functionalities and the interface. Several of these are already incorporated within the new release of SSN-STIRES for summer 2010. Others have been evaluated by EMSA, prioritised and will be included in future evolutions of STIRES.

EMSA welcomes further positive suggestions and comments from the MSs during this meeting. It is important to gain as much benefit and improvement of the system as is possible during the initial operational phase of SSN/STIRES.

3. PROXY PILOT TESTING

During SSN 12, it was agreed to launch a pilot project for evaluating the needs, technical impacts and possible uses for MSs in receiving SSN-STIRES data through the proxy application (Action 12 of SSN 12 report). Three MSs agreed to participate: The Netherlands, Norway and Poland. At the end of March 2010, a document was sent to the three MSs for accessing the proxy application and initiates the pilot project.

The initial phase will clarify several points:

- What is the level of interest of the MSs in receiving SSN-STIRES data through the proxy application
- Coverage of already reported user needs by the changes planned by EMSA and regional server providers on the proxy application upgrade (refer to section 4) and identification of additional requirements.
- What are the needs of the various users
- What are the necessary developments of the MSs system to exploit these data (interface with the proxy, national system evolutions, charts and GIS tools associated...)

By the end of this pilot, a clearer picture will be provided based on the experience gained. The outcomes of this project should allow EMSA and the MSs to:

- Analyse the potential impact on national systems and consequence for the long-term (planning for developments, evolutions, operational procedures...)
- Assess the need to receive the overall set of data of to filter out depending on the need expressed

4. FUTURE PLANS

SSN-STIRES will be amended and modified to incorporate expectations already provided by the MSs, technical needs to improve the system and to manage the pilot projects referring to the integrated maritime surveillance.

- **Increase of the number of users**

After the initial operational that continues until summer 2010, EMSA plans to purchase additional chart licences to connect more users per MS. Such an increase of SSN-STIRES users will have to be reflected in updated Conditions of Use (an Addendum to these CoU will be needed) with the relevant IP address provided.

The potential SSN (STIRES and EIS) users will increase because:

- A single sign on application is used to access SSN-EIS and SSN-STIRES. It means that a user declared for accessing SSN-STIRES has to be also a user declared in SSN-EIS
- The possibility for ports to access the SSN-STIRES application is also foreseen with the dedicated access rights equivalent to those already agreed in SSN (visibility for ships bound to their port).
- Others users (LRIT...) are foreseen in the near future

EMSA is expecting MSs to provide a priority list by the end of June identifying the amount of new users needed. Such requirements will be evaluated based on SSN-STIRES possibilities. MSs will be invited then to formalise an official request through an Addendum of the SSN-STIRES CoU.

- **Integration of LRIT**

As introduced in the document SSN 13.1.1 and SSN 13.1.2 a first set of LRIT data will be available through SSN-STIRES (summer 2010). This initial phase will enable access to Flag (and Coastal) user reports of LRIT data through SSN-STIRES. The full set of LRIT functions is planned for November 2010. MSs are invited to clarify the way they plan to access LRIT data (SSN-STIRES web and/or XML) to allow EMSA to evaluate the potential impact.

- **Integrated surveillance pilot project data**

A concept paper for the VMS pilot project has been validated by the maritime directors of France, Italy, Spain and EMSA. The development phase will now begin. Its purpose is to prove the concept by exchanging VMS data (NAF format) between the 3 FMCs through SSN, depending on the specific access rights to AIS data available in SSN using the NAF format. They will then be able to use the AIS data to correlate and verify the information they have received through VMS.

The radar pilot project is also progressing; the purpose is to share VTS/processed radar information through SSN. The system will receive and distribute the radar image from coastal VTSS. A meeting with the experts from France Spain and Italy is planned for May 2010.

The S-AIS pilot project as discussed in the meeting of February, aims to incorporate, access and display S-AIS data through SSN-STIRES. For this pilot project, data will be provided through the Norwegian S-AIS to SSN.

Information about these Pilots is accessible following the link below
https://extranet.emsa.europa.eu/index.php?option=com_joomdoc&task=cat_view&qid=263

- **Proxy software amendment**

During the recent regional servers expert group meeting (Rome, 16 March 2010) it was proposed by EMSA to amend the structure of the SSN-STIRES proxy data stream to facilitate distribution of SSN generated data via the regional networks.

This will require harmonisation of the proxy application architecture at SSN core, regional and national level by applying software upgrades to the proxy application. The upgrade is based on the Comment Block (CB) extension as defined in the IEC 62320-1 standard, for the AIS Base Stations interface. CBs will be used to identify the originator and authorised recipient of the data as well as to provide the enriched information generated by SSN (indication if there is Hazmat on board, if the vessel is banned, if there is an alert for the vessel, etc) The upgrade will also allow the secure LRIT data distribution as well as the future distribution of data from additional sensors following the completion of the planned pilot projects (VMS/ SSN synergies, VTS generated and radar data distribution via SSN, S-AIS data distribution) .

The main advantages of the use of comments blocks are:

- a. Flexibility: data providers and recipients who do not support CBs will still be able to send and receive messages in IEC 61162 format while data providers and recipients who implement CBs will be able to send and/or receive the additional information embedded in CBs;
- b. Standardisation: CBs are defined in the IEC 62320-1 standard for AIS Base Stations and are very likely to become a widely used extension to the IEC 61162 protocol.

5. FURTHER FOLLOW UP

This module of SSN provides MSs with a new picture of the maritime traffic around Europe. New data from LRIT will enhance this picture. The EMSA surveillance pilot projects are also expected to contribute to future expansion of SSN as an important tool for maritime safety, port and maritime security, protection of the environment and the efficiency of maritime traffic. The pilot testing of the extended STIRES proxy will assess the potential needs, use, benefits and technical impacts upon the MSs systems for receiving the expanded range of SSN-STIRES data.

An important improvement of SSN is also the near future 2-way SSL implementation. For improving the level of security of the system, EMSA will implement in the coming months this solution in SSN. The relevant requirements will be provided to MSs in the coming weeks.

6. ACTION REQUESTED

MSs are invited to note the above mentioned information and provide their comments.