

UKHO's Digital Future Vision



UK Hydrographic Office Chief Executive Mike Robinson has outlined a digital future for his organisation by reaffirming the UKHO's intention to launch a new global vector chart service next year. He also highlighted that the UKHO is determined to remain a commercial success in this digital future.

Speaking at the Institute of Marine Engineering Science & Technology (IMarEST) President's Day Forum on 16th October 2007 in London, Mr. Robinson said the world of marine navigation was changing from paper based to digital products.

Mr. Robinson said UKHO are about to start trials of a new global vector service which will be made available during the first half of next year as a basis for future products and services over the next few years. The availability and quality of 'official' vector charts had not improved as quickly as expected by the maritime community and widespread adoption has yet to occur, despite potential safety advantages. Although the UKHO employs over 1,000 staff, has significant resources; the challenge of moving to a digital world would test its capability.