



Increasing demand for VTS simulation training

Over the past few years training Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) operators using the very latest simulation technology has become a core competence of MARIN.

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As maritime traffic continues to grow and gets increasingly busy, the need to regulate traffic and avoid congestion in ports and waterways becomes even more important. MARIN has actually been active in VTS training for more than 20 years via its in-house training programmes at MSCN. In addition, there are a growing number of projects involving the delivery of customised VTS training systems that can be used on-site. Recent examples include the VTS training systems for the Port of Amsterdam, Groningen Seaports, the Port of Rotterdam and a mobile and portable system for the Shipping & Transport College (STC) Group.

Innovative concepts Looking at the latest developments in VTS systems and training requirements – subjects thoroughly discussed at the latest IALA Symposium “Beyond the Limits” – there is evidently an intensification of training, which is supported by increasing harmonisation in a number of fields. Among those are the IALA guidelines V103 and the material for model courses, as well as a lively international debate about mandatory training. The standardisation of the Inter VTS Exchange Format (IVEF), a standard that MARIN has incorporated into its VTS simulation and that allows the active

coupling with a manufacturer’s front-end system, is another important field. In the case of the Rotterdam system, MARIN’s VTS simulator is actively coupled through IVEF with the HITT front-end systems. On-the-job-training is then possible using the exact same working environment.

Further developments are taking place on the management and planning side of VTS, often referred to as VTMISS. Clearly, this supports the objective of a safe and efficient traffic flow that can be monitored, managed and planned professionally. MARIN intends to contribute to the core monitoring and planning process with innovative concepts such as the use of risk values as a decision support tool, and 3D visualisation of the traffic image for a better understanding of critical situations. We will show the first results at next year’s IALA VTS workshop at MARIN in September 2013.

MarQER JIP Parallel to this the MarQER Joint Industry Project (Maritime Quantification of Emission & Risk) is being set up. Main objective is to determine a real-time index for emissions and risks of individual vessels and to embed this information in a fully operational tool. ▢