

SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION,  
COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND  
RESCUE  
7th session  
Agenda item 12

NCSR 7/INF.6  
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**RESPONSE TO MATTERS RELATED TO THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION ITU R STUDY  
GROUP AND ITU WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE**

**3rd Generation partnership project (3GPP)  
in the maritime domain**

**Submitted by the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and  
Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)**

**SUMMARY**

*Executive summary:* This document provides an update in the considerations made by IALA with respect to the developments within 3GPP that may support the maritime domain

*Strategic direction, if 2  
applicable:*

*Output:* Not applicable

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 18

*Related document:* NCSR 7/12

**Introduction**

1 At the fifteenth meeting of the joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime radiocommunication matters, the technical standardization for a public mobile network in the context of maritime safety was reviewed.

2 Paragraph 8.9 of document NCSR 7/12 identified that IMO should be more proactive and get involved in the work of the 3rd Generation partnership project (3GPP). Noting that IALA had been approached already by 3GPP, the Group invited IALA to keep IMO informed of future developments.

3 3GPP<sup>1</sup> unites telecommunications standard development organizations, known as "organizational partners" and provides their members with a stable environment to produce reports and specifications that define 3GPP technologies.<sup>2</sup>

4 The project covers cellular telecommunications technologies, including radio access, core network and service capabilities, which provide a complete system description for mobile telecommunications.

5 The three Technical specification groups in 3GPP are:

- .1 radio access networks;
- .2 services and systems aspects; and
- .3 core network and terminals.

6 The maritime related work in 3GPP started in September 2016 with a feasibility study on maritime communication services over 3GPP systems and resulted in approval of 3GPP (document Stage 1, release 16) in December 2018 at the Technical specification groups services and systems aspects, plenary meeting in Sorrento, Italy.<sup>3</sup>

7 The maritime sector has been working to close the "information gap" at sea. Examples of 3GPP systems in the maritime domain include the use of Long-term evolution (LTE) in projects including the Republic of Korea's smart navigation project (LTE-maritime) and the deployment of LTE systems in China.

8 3GPP addresses different requirements within sectors including maritime, vehicle, rail and aviation. The work undertaken within the respective sectors is referred to as "vertical domains". The work of 3GPP is bringing together use cases for these vertical domains, including 5G maritime services.

9 3GPP activities on maritime communication have been presented at various maritime events including the European Telecommunications Standards Institute workshop on The future evolution of marine communication in 2017<sup>4</sup> as well as at the nineteenth IALA Conference in 2018 on A new era for marine aids to navigation in a connected world and is continuing to be discussed in the IALA technical committees.

### **3GPP data services**

10 3GPP systems are intended to be a secure wireless system and offer the maritime community the following features:

- .1 Shore-to-ship and ship-to-shore: a secure, broadband, Internet protocol (IP) digital link capable of carrying voice, data and video.

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1 <https://www.3gpp.org>

2 Including the Association of Radio Industries and Business, the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, Communications Standards Association, European Telecommunications Standards Institute, Telecommunications Standards Development Society and the Telecommunications Technology Association.

3 <https://portal.3gpp.org/desktopmodules/Specifications/SpecificationDetails.aspx?specificationId=3134>

4 [https://docbox.etsi.org/Workshop/2017/20171107\\_FUTURE\\_EVOL\\_MARINE\\_COM](https://docbox.etsi.org/Workshop/2017/20171107_FUTURE_EVOL_MARINE_COM)

- .2 Ship-to-ship (device to device): a secure, broadband, IP digital link capable of carrying voice, data and video which does not require a base station (from 3GPP release 14 onwards).

11 The sample data speed of the 3GPP systems network is shown below<sup>5</sup>.

3GPP Version	Standard	Download	Upload
2.5G	GRPS	114Kb/s	20Kb/s
2.75G	EDGE	384Kb/s	60Kb/s
3G	UMTS	384Kb/s	64Kb/s
	W-CDMA	2Mb/s	153Kb/s
	HSPA 3.6	3.6Mb/s	348Kb/s
Pre 4G	HSPA 7.2	7.2Mb/s	2Mb/s
	HSPA 14	14Mb/s	5.7Mb/s
	HSPA+	56Mb/s	22Mb/s
	WIMAX	6Mb/s	1Mb/s
	LTE	100Mb/s	50Mb/s
4G	WIMAX 2	1Gb/s	500Mb/s
	LTE Advanced	1Gb/s	500Mb/s

**Table 1: Sample data service speed of 3GPP systems**

12 The services within the 3GPP system data services include:

- .1 broadband data services (3GPP as shown in table 1);
- .2 mission critical services; and
- .3 internet of things.

13 With the advance to 5G there will be additional features available including low latency services.

### **Trials and implementation**

14 IALA has reviewed presentations and information provided on the tests and implementation of the LTE 3GPP technology referenced in paragraphs 6. The following outcomes are noted:

- .1 the existing 4G services can be used within the maritime domain;
- .2 the coverage for shore-to-ship with an optimized installation has been tested up to 100 km and can be predicted using standard coverage prediction tools;
- .3 ship-to-ship performance and range have not yet been tested;
- .4 trials have shown that at long ranges (>30 km), data rates from shore to any one vessel exceed 1 Mb/s;

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ict-pulse.com>

- .5 multiple LTE shore stations allow the ship to transparently roam between the shore stations;
- .6 high bandwidth LTE data channel allows a range of innovative services to be implemented; and
- .7 5G services are an enhancement to what exists and are planned to include satellite access.

### **Use cases in 3GPP documentation**

15 The existing 3GPP maritime services (document Stage 1, release 16) includes examples that cover:

- .1 Coastal and local warning service (paragraph 7.3): this use case describes the use of a maritime safety information service, provides navigational warnings, meteorological information and other urgent safety-related information.
- .2 Public warning system (PWS) (paragraph 7.6): this use case describes a scenario where PWS notification is delivered to shipboard users by direct or indirect network connections. Language-independent content is also included in a PWS message delivered to them.
- .3 Urgent alarm service (paragraph 7.7): this use case describes a scenario where ships avoid accident, using a warning message.

### **Developments**

16 The demand for bandwidth is expected to grow as more maritime data services are defined and new requirements are documented. It is expected that commercial, global LTE roaming solutions with shipborne equipment for ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship communication will continue to be implemented to satisfy the need for high bandwidth connectivity to ships.

17 IALA will continue to monitor the development of the maritime vertical domains within 3GPP.

### **Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

18 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided.

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