River Information Services - historical development and legal basis

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PIANC

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INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
A number of concepts and standardisation proposals for River Information Services have been developed in the research and development project *INDRIS* of the European Union.

These are:

- Guidelines and Recommendations for RIS, 1999 (used as starting point to the RIS Guidelines 2002 by the PIANC WG 24)
- Functional definition of the RIS concept, 1998
- Standardisation of data communication (AIS, GNSS, Internet), 1999
- Standards for tactical data exchange, communication and messages (Inland AIS), 1998
- Standardisation of data, 1998
- Standards of codes (country, location, terminal, type of vessel, cargo)
- RIS scenarios (functions)
- Data-interchange standards (Edifact, S-57 update mechanism)
- Reporting databases, 1999

The concept for Inland ECDIS has been developed in the German *ARGO* project in co-operation with *INDRIS*.

The concept for RIS architecture has been developed by the *WATERMAN* Thematic Network, a research action under the 5th Framework Programme of the EU in the fields of VTMIS (maritime navigation) and RIS.
1998
The European Union initiated elaborating of the Concept of River Information Services (RIS). The potential of RIS to bring inland navigation to a better position in the transport chain was also recognized by international organizations like UNECE, River Commissions – CCNR, DC and, later, the Sava Commission and the International Association for Navigation (PIANC).

1998-2002
PIANC established the Permanent Working Group 24 for elaboration of RIS Concept

2002
PWG24 developed in 2002 the Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services (RIS Guidelines 2002)

2003
With the support of several EU Member States, the European Commission took the initiative to issue a Directive on River Information Services.

2004
Revisions of RIS Guidelines 2002 were drafted and published as RIS Guidelines 2004. Since the publication the further developments on services and standards as well as the technical and practical experience have taken place.

2004
UNECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport adopted two Resolutions on RIS:

These Guidelines use as basis “IALA Recommendation V-120, June 2001” and are compatible with SOLAS regulation V/8-2 and IMO Assembly Resolution A.857(20), 2001

The current legal framework for River Information Services is based on Directive 2005/44/EC, which defines binding rules for data communication as well as the minimum level of River Information Services for future RIS implementations.


Three regulations on RIS, as referred to in Article 5 of Directive 2005/44/EC, of have been published:

- Commission Regulations (EC) No 414/2007 of 13 March 2007 concerning the technical guidelines for the planning, implementation and operational use of river information services (RIS)
- Commission Regulations (EC) No 415/2007 of 13 March 2007 concerning the technical specifications for vessel tracking and tracing systems (VTT)
- Commission Regulations (EC) No 416/2007 of 22 March 2007 concerning the technical specifications for Notices to Skippers (NtS)

PIANC established the Permanent Working Group 125 with the task to keep the Guidelines for River Information Services up to date. As a first result, PIANC published in 2011 an update of the RIS guidelines after having analysed the world wide status of the implementation of River Information Services. The PIANC RIS Guidelines 2011 Ed.3 were formally accepted by the UNECE, Rhine Commission, Sava commission and Danube Commission
The first step towards the development of RIS standards was undertaken by a European RIS Platform, which was the basis for the participation of a large number of the European (EU and non-EU) national authorities to promote the standardised and harmonised implementation of RIS.

The European RIS platform supported in the early 2000’s the creation and installation of RIS Expert Groups aiming at the standardisation and harmonisation of the RIS key technologies.

Since that period Expert Groups have played a major role in the development of standards. The RIS Expert Groups are international technical platforms ensuring the harmonised development and maintenance of RIS standards. The RIS Expert Groups act as advisory bodies of institutions like the European Commission, the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR), the Danube Commission (DC) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on RIS standardisation processes.

According to the RIS Directive the Member States have to implement RIS according to the defined standards and provide the minimum set of services:

- Minimum dataset related to infrastructure and the operation of locks, ports, etc;
- Electronic Nautical Charts (ENC) for fairway class Va and higher;
- Facilities for Electronic Reporting of vessels, their voyage and their cargo where reporting is regulated;
- Electronic publication of “Notices to Skippers”;
- Establish and operate RIS Centres – if the traffic situation requires so.

The RIS Directive was the basis for the implementation of different standards for the following RIS key technologies: Tracking and Tracing, Notice to Skippers, Electronic Reporting

The first standards for the RIS key technologies: Inland ECDIS, Notice to Skippers (NtS), Vessel Tracking and Tracing (VTT) and Electronic Reporting International (ERI) were formally accepted by the CCNR and UNECE.
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Resolution No. 79 International Standard for Electronic Ship Reporting in Inland Navigation

Resolution No. 48 (Revision 2) (2013) Recommendation on Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS) ECE/TRANS/SC.3/150/Rev.2

CCNR


Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS) Edition 2.3 Adoption by the CCNR 23.10.2011
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Thank you for your kind attention!

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