

A background image showing a satellite in orbit above a map of the world, with various lines and markers indicating navigation or data points.

News Release

ChartCo Delivers AVCS Updates

London, 19th October 2009 – Following intensive development work ChartCo has announced it is now able to deliver updates to the UKHO's AVCS cells across both its Broadcast and Select delivery services. The AVCS service will help complete an already comprehensive range of electronic chart update services, currently available to ENC and ARCS users. It will be added to the existing ENC service at no additional cost to subscribers.

Steve Mariner, ChartCo Manager said: "We have watched the launch of AVCS and the subsequent growth of subscribers with great interest. In the last few months it has become very apparent from our customer base that an update service through ChartCo was urgently required. The growing interest in electronic charts, fuelled by the ECDIS mandation, means that all vessels must consider how to implement a suitable policy that addresses both electronic and paper products for the bridge. With the launch of a service for AVCS users, ChartCo is again at the forefront in supplying update services to satisfy the most demanding of shipowners".

Hayley Jopson, Head of Channel Management and Marketing at the UKHO said "AVCS contains at least 1500 more ENCs than any other service in the market including important areas such as Hong Kong, East and West Coast of Africa, Indonesia and the Philippines. It's great news that ChartCo customers can now get very cost-effective, real time remote access to updates for those extra ENCs via ChartCo Broadcast and Select services. Between 20 and 30 ships are making the decision to switch to AVCS every week, and we see our collaboration with ChartCo as an important step in the ongoing development of the service and to ensuring it continues to meet the needs of the shipping industry."

For further information please visit
www.chartco.com



Notes to Editors - ChartCo

ChartCo was formed in 1998 and is widely regarded as the market leading provider of electronic data directly to ships at sea.

The ChartCo Broadcast service, which uses the Inmarsat point to multi-point service, has been operational since January 1999. Since this time the company has grown rapidly and has more recently introduced ChartCo Select, which offers service delivery through broadband or dial-up internet access as well as email.

ChartCo Broadcast and ChartCo Select deliver the following Services:

- ChartManager™, a package of digital Notices to Mariners and chart correction tracings, automatically delivered directly to the ChartCo decoder on board ship. This service covers a wide range of paper charts from various HO's including BA and Japan amongst others.
- oceanXpress™, a range of services for delivery of updates to electronic chart and navigation data to support the ever-increasing use of electronic navigation data in place of conventional paper charts and publications. An important part of this service is updates to both Primar and AVCS electronic cells.
- MetManager™, a weather forecasting and routing service based on data from US Government sources.
- News Services, daily electronic newspapers, regional supplements and sport events special editions.
- RegsManager™ provides electronic management of documents to meet the relevant requirements of the Flag State and the MARPOL, SOLAS and STCW Conventions. Products have digital Flag State equivalence to avoid the need to carry paper copies.
- AVManager™ the supply of anti-virus licences and daily updates.

The ChartManager™ and oceanXpress™ chart update services help vessels to comply with international standards by providing a chart correction audit trail and the safety and operational benefits of shore based ship management. Automatic reception and data assessment are a feature of all the services allowing the system to operate on a 'fit and forget' basis. Comprehensive software allows the vessel to manage vessel folios and view historical data.

ChartCo offers global distribution through a world-wide network of sales agents and is able to fit its equipment and install software in key international ports using authorised service agents. Fixed weekly subscription charges can include rental of the decoder, satellite communications costs and information supply – making it one of the simplest marine information services in the world.

ChartCo has built a reputation for world-leading products and service and has succeeded in developing an enviable and growing client list. ChartCo is based in London.



THE UNITED KINGDOM
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

Notes to Editors - UKHO

1. UKHO, which is part of the Ministry of Defence, has been charting the world's oceans for more than 200 years with the primary aim of providing navigational services for the Royal Navy and merchant mariners to save and protect lives at sea. In addition it also serves the small craft and leisure mariners and provides a range of consultancy services.
2. UKHO produces a worldwide series of some 3,300 paper nautical charts and 160 publications under the Admiralty brand and has a growing portfolio of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs). These charts are sold globally and used by nearly 70 per cent of international shipping.
3. UKHO is a Trading Fund which means it is a government agency owned by the MoD with the freedom to trade commercially to generate revenue and cover running costs.
4. UKHO also plays a central role, in support of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in discharging the navigation element of the UK's Safety of Life at Sea Treaty obligations for waters of UK national responsibility.
5. AVCS brings together Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) from national hydrographic offices around the world and new ENC coverage produced by UKHO in co-operation with Foreign Governments to provide comprehensive, official, worldwide coverage.

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