Inauguration of the new MRCC Oostende, Belgium

Kornwestheim, July 2006 – The renewed Marine Rescue and Coordination Centre of Oostende, Belgium, uses components of in-innovative navigation GmbH for its Radar Video Network (RVN) and AIS data processing.

Figure 1: MRCC Oostende, control centre

The challenge to monitor and guarantee the safety and efficiency of shipping at sea, requires a continuous effort from maritime authorities and coastguard organisations. Dramatic accidents always remember that efficient deployment and quick coordination of rescue actions at sea are of vital importance.

Therefore, existing radar and traffic information systems, procedures and working methods as available in VTS or MRCC coastal monitoring centres are being challenged with new technologies like the introduction of AIS, the information exchange with the European maritime information network SafeSeaNet, and the adoption of new ICT technologies and software tools. Furthermore, existing infrastructure has to be constantly renewed and new technology should always call for new opportunities.

Figure 2: Radar scanner in Oostende

The radar software technologies implemented in this project will increase efficiency and safety at sea and on board. Illegal oil spills can be detected through existing VTS radar infrastructures.

The conditions of an incident, like currents, sea bottom topography, water level, etc. can be reconstructed because raw radar data can be stored and made available. In man over board situations, a search and rescue operation can be more efficient because current vectors can be measured, providing an accurate prediction of water movement in time, allowing accurate determination of the position of the person.

The new Maritime Rescue and Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) in Ostende has officially been inaugurated in June 2006. The MRCC is the first registration point for accidents at sea along the Belgian coast.

The centre was commissioned by the Shipping Assistance Division of the Flemish Government and was realized by Barco, Fabricom GTI and Tein Telecom, based on the modular VTS components of in-innovative navigation GmbH, as there are: RADARserver, RADARrecorder, RADARextractor, RADARtracker, RADARlib and MultiSensorTracker, fusing the data acquired from five large VTS radars and the Schelde-Northsea-AIS network.

This system offers a state-of-the-art and integrated platform for Vessel Traffic Monitoring, Incident Management and Search & Rescue functionalities to ensure safety and to coordinate rescue actions at sea.

Project summary

Time frame	October 2005 – June 2006
Scope of delivery	Complete radar video network, radar recording functionality and radar tracking for 2 VTS radar, Multi Sensor tracking (MST) integrating data of 5 radar scanners and AIS
Eligibility criterion	Selection was based on the professional competence of the company in-innovative navigation GmbH, as well as the reliable performance features of the hard and software delivered