GERMAN INLAND WATERWAYS AIS

Germany has introduced a funding programme for the purchase and installation of AIS transponders aboard inland vessels. Starting from 1\textsuperscript{st} November 2009 all vessels registered in the German shipping register or regularly using German inland waterways were able to apply for public funding.

On 29\textsuperscript{th} October 2009, the German Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development published a directive which established a funding scheme for the purchase and installation of onboard AIS transponders. The programme was established in close co-operation with The Netherlands inland waterway authorities which is expected to introduce a similar funding programme soon, it is understood.

All inland vessels with a length of more than 20 metres which are on the German shipping register or on another register in the European Union (excluding The Netherlands) and regularly navigate on German inland waterways can receive funding.

Funding is provided in the form of a non-refundable direct grant of a maximum of €2,100 per AIS transponder. Applicants have to provide a minimum co-financing amount of €500. The European Union co-finances 30\% of the overall funding budget within the framework of the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T). By 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2011, a maximum of 2800 vessels were due to be equipped with AIS transponders.

In The Netherlands, 1,000 inland vessels are expected to be equipped with AIS in the scope of the pilot schemes already running. In a later stage up to 7,000 additional shipowners will be able to apply for a direct funding until the end of 2011. Other than in the current subsidy scheme in Germany, The Netherlands will not ask for minimum co-financing by the shipowner. Information reproduced by kind permission of \textit{via donau}. 