SEAZONE
Creation of land-sea integrated reference data for the North Sea

It was reported from Hampshire, UK, on 15th February that the marine GIS company SeaZone is collaborating with hydrographic offices and other organisations in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden and UK on a three year European funded project (Interreg IVB North Sea Programme) to improve marine reference information for the North Sea. The title of the project Bringing Land and Sea Together (BLAST) aptly describes the project’s main aim, that is to harmonise and integrate terrestrial and marine geographic datasets to create a consistent reference base suitable for integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) and other purposes. In addition, BLAST has a transnational challenge to incorporate maritime information from the sea areas of the countries making up the North Sea Region to ensure this information can be readily combined to improve co-ordination and maritime safety.

The project is one of many running from 2007 to 2013 and its aim, partially funded by the EU, is to help organisations co-ordinate regional projects effectively. This project has provided SeaZone the opportunity to enhance its global marine mapping improvement programme by building on established relationships with North Sea hydrographic offices and forging new links with coastal administrations, local authorities and other marine stakeholders. The project will act as an opportunity for public organisations outside the UK to test SeaZone’s digital marine mapping product, HydroSpatial, against their emerging requirements. SeaZone’s specialist land-sea mapping integration tools, developed for the UK, will be improved to incorporate terrestrial mapping from Norway, Denmark and Belgium, it is claimed. More information can be found on the company at: www.SeaZone.com It is understood that over 500 organisations across the oil and gas, renewable energy, conservation and public sectors use SeaZone data, software and services to help support decision making in the Marine Environment and Coastal Zone. SeaZone Solutions Limited, is wholly owned by Admiralty Holdings Ltd (AHL), which is owned by the UK Secretary of State for Defence and operated on his behalf by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO).