ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS FOR THE FRANCO-GERMAN RHINE MADE AVAILABLE

A successful partnership between VNF and GWSD

Navigational charts that meet the requirements of the European Union and the CCNR

As part of its policy to offer an ever more efficient and safe waterway to users, Voies Navigables de France continues to provide electronic navigational charts for all. This was announced from Béthune, on 29 December 2014.

The navigational charts of the Franco-German Rhine between Basel, Gambsheim and the large-gauge Niffer/Mulhouse reach are now available on the following website:

http://www.vnf.fr/vnf/content.vnf?action=rubrique&rub_id=1830

AIS and ECDIS
The Central Commission for Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) has introduced a new regulation whereby inland AIS and ECDIS equipments are required for navigation on the Rhine and this was due to commence on 1 December 2014.

The electronic inland navigational charts, made available for the Franco-German Rhine by VNF between Basel and Gambsheim and by WSD downstream of Gambsheim, meet the European Commission’s requirements (Commission Regulation N°909/2013) and constitute the official charts for this region.

These charts are the result of a co-operation between two waterway administrations: Voies Navigables de France and the German Administration for Inland Waterways represented by the Waterways and Shipping Directorate in Mainz (GWSD/Mainz AST).

The partnership between VNF and GWSD, in developing these electronic navigational charts, made it possible to overcome regulatory and legal constraints linked to the cross-border nature of the waterway. Such co-operation has also seen combination of specifications and expertise of each administration, especially with regard to the physical characteristics of the waterway and its channels.
Many adjustments have already been integrated with these electronic charts and now made available to all waterway users. Both partners continue to actively work on this project, particularly on the optimization of the characteristics as well as the position of navigation channels.

The next update for the electronic navigational chart for the Franco-German Rhine is scheduled for 2015.

**About VNF**
The 4,700 employees of Voies Navigables de France act daily to ensure a waterway public service. Regarding ecology, sustainable development and energy in its waters VNF acts accordingly particularly with regard to infrastructure as it manages, operates, improves and develops the largest European network of inland waterways at 6,700 km.