

PRIMAR – Freedom to Choose

PRIMAR provides a world-wide consistent and reliable electronic navigational chart (ENC) service. This international collaboration is operated on a non-profit basis.

The core aim is to provide the maritime community with a user-friendly ENC* service, available to everyone at a reasonable cost this to enable value creation, efficiency and safety at sea.

The advantages of PRIMAR

- Comprehensive ENC database
- Non-profit operator with competitive pricing
- ENC services delivered via an international network of authorised distributors
- A wide variety of user-friendly tools for simple ENC distribution and sale
- Innovative solutions developed with our partners
- Full control over their own ENC data for our member hydrographic offices
- Policies determined by our member states
- Cooperation with other regional ENC coordinating centres (RENCs)
- Operated in accordance with the WEND principles (Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database) of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)



PRIMAR focus on giving our authorised partners freedom to choose between various services, and support them with flexible, user-friendly, efficient and timely solutions.

Although the technology is advanced, the idea underlying our service is simple. We gather all ENCs in a single database and create a one-stop-shop for distributors and users of such charts. This has allowed us to acquire a leading role in providing the best navigational solutions for the world's merchant fleet, navies, marine pilots and government agencies.

PRIMAR is operated on a non-profit basis by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service, in close cooperation with the Norwegian state owned company Electronic Chart Centre AS.

PRIMAR's vision

In order to enhance safety at sea and protect the maritime environment, PRIMAR's vision is to be the most efficient model for the provision of ENC services and maritime geospatial data worldwide.

*ENCs are official digital chart data authorised by national hydrographic offices, in accordance with the S-57 ENC product specification from the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

www.primar.org

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PRIMAR RENC

PRIMAR incorporates the Regional ENC Coordinating Centre (RENC). A RENC compiles electronic navigational charts (ENCs) from national or international hydrographic authorities, validates the data and manages ENC distribution through appointed resellers.

When established in 1999, PRIMAR were the world's first Regional ENC Coordinating Centre (RENC), bringing ENCs from a wide range of national hydrographic offices together into a single seamless service.

Freedom to cooperate

The PRIMAR RENC is based on bilateral agreements with several nations, as well as direct license and distribution agreements with other hydrographic offices and distributors.

A RENC is an organisation, conceptualised in the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND) principles of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), through which IHO members can cooperate to:

- resolve overlaps and gaps in coverage
- ensure compliance with S57 and S63 encoding standards
- provide a world-wide consistent level of high quality data
- support the provision of co-ordinated end-user services for official ENCs

The IHO WEND principles encourage Member States to distribute their ENCs through a RENC in order to share in common experience and reduce expenditure, and to ensure the greatest possible standardization, consistency, reliability and availability of ENCs.

PRIMAR's goal in providing freedom to choose directly corresponds with the WEND principles of ensuring that mariners, anywhere in the world, can obtain fully updated ENCs for all shipping routes and ports across the world; and that ENC data are available to users through integrated services.

The PRIMAR RENC also cooperates with other RENCs, such as the International Centre for ENCs (IC-ENC). This collaboration covers standards and technical issues as well as information distributed to the global shipping market.



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Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC)

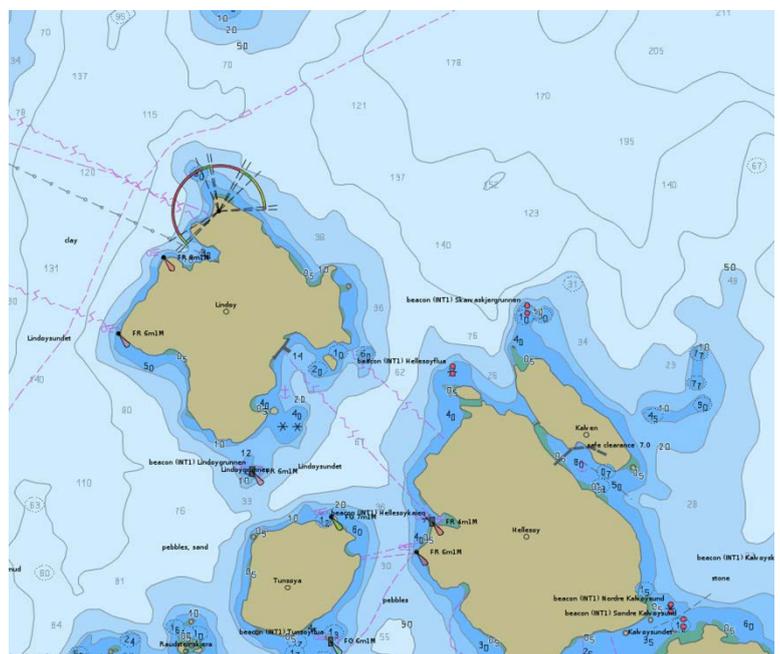
The Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) are produced in accordance with international standards, and issued for use in an ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information System).

ENCs contain all the chart information necessary for safe navigation, and may contain supplementary information in addition to that contained in the paper chart (e.g. sailing directions) which may be considered necessary for safe navigation. They are produced by or on the authority of a government-authorized hydrographic office or other relevant institution.

The advantages of ENCs from PRIMAR

- Official charts issued by hydrographic office's, based on the relevant source data or official charts
- Meet Safety Of Life At Sea requirements
- Delivered in accordance with the "ENC Product Specification" of the S57 standard
- Worldwide coverage
- Increased navigation safety
- Improved operational efficiency
- Cost effective route and voyage planning
- Integration with AIS* and other tools
- Updates available 24/7

ENCs are compiled, coded and regularly updated in accordance with international requirements as regards content and structure.



ECDIS is a type of navigational electronic chart system for installation on the bridge of a vessel, which complies with the requirements stipulated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). When used in a type-certified ECDIS system, the ENCs can replace paper charts for navigation.

When used with an approved backup system, ECDIS is considered a legal replacement for paper charts – if the data is prepared in accordance with the stipulated requirement specifications (S57 ENC Product Specification). The S57 standard was prepared with regard to the exchange of hydrographic data.

As an example: Electronic Chart System (ECS) does not comply with the "IMO Performance Standards", and do not satisfy the requirements related to navigational charts on board vessels as defined in SOLAS Chapter V (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea).

Neither the Raster Chart Display System (RCDS) is approved by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), since the system does not comply with the ECDIS requirements. However, IMO has allowed use of raster data in ECDIS if there is no relevant ENC data for the area, but in Norwegian waters raster charts will not supersede the requirement to have updated paper charts on board.

*AIS – Automatic Identification System – is an automatic tracking system used on ships and by vessel traffic services (VTS) for identifying and locating vessels.

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For further information on PRIMAR visit www.primar.org.
[The PRIMAR logos are available on primar.org.](http://www.primar.org)

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FREEDOM TO CHOOSE