

Editorial

This is the first issue of the new series of the International Hydrographic Review. The original journal that has been published by the International Hydrographic Organisation from 1923 to the present date, has provided a remarkable record of hydrographic progress. Its publication has now been taken over by GITC bv in The Netherlands on a commercial basis. It will initially continue to be published on a bi-annual basis, although should the demand indicate, it may in the future be published more frequently. The aim is to continue to maintain the professional nature of its contents and to seek original articles that discuss the leading edges of the technology.

This first volume includes articles that reflect the present day interest in electronic charts. With most of the specifications in place, it may be noted, that attention is now turning to some of the business aspects of distribution and marketing. Associated subjects, such as regional and world wide electronic chart data bases, commercial contracting and encryption are included in the papers presented. However, electronic charts are not the only subjects included. The ubiquitous GPS and its use in confined channels is the topic of a major paper. Since all readers seem interested in history there is a leavening of the present day technology with a paper by Steve Ritchie on early methods of collecting ocean soundings.

Hopefully readers will not find this volume too heavily weighted towards Canadian authors, a result, no doubt of the editor's own affiliation. The ambition is to make the Review as international and as multi-disciplinary as possible and readers are encouraged to submit papers with this in mind. Likewise, if readers find this volume dealing too much with the 'business' of hydrography, rather than the technology, further editions will seek to cover more of the latter. Above all, it is seen important to seek original and scholarly articles that will be peer reviewed. For more immediate topics or for shorter contributions, it will be noted that there is a section called 'Notes' for which contributions are also sought. Not everyone will agree with everything that is said in the articles and notes and we will be happy to receive and publish letters providing the readers' own views.

We hope you will like this new publication and find that it will add a new dimension to distributing information on hydrography and associated sciences.

Adam J. Kerr
Editor

