

Editorial

By now, you will have hopefully all have read the first issue of the new series of this review. No news is said to be good news and although a few letters and e-mails have been received, nothing adverse has so far been said. Due to a slight lack of communication between the editorial team, the first issue was not quite as polished as we had hoped. This was particularly the case with the graphics, including the cover. Two important charts failed to be included with Steve Ritchie's interesting historical paper and some of the figures appeared in mono-colour rather than the multi-colour that we had planned. Still we learn by our experience and it is hoped that we will improve in both style and content with each issue produced.

Once again in this issue you will see electronic charts as the basis for several papers. Clearly, much interest in hydrography continues to be directed at data management and field work is tending to be less evident as a subject for discussion. Nevertheless, you may see Tom Eisler's paper dealing with acoustic propagation matters. The big issue of how to convert source data into a variety of products has been tackled by several Hydrographic Offices in the past, with varying degrees of success. It is undoubtedly a very complex process. In an Australian paper in this issue you can read about a selective approach in which deep draft shipping corridors are addressed in detail leaving the remaining chart area for general raster data coverage. A Canadian writer discusses print on demand technology but also addresses the much broader question of how charts will be delivered to customers in the future, in both graphic and digital form. This paper is timely, as there is increasing thought being given to the use of the Internet for product delivery and hydrography must not be left out. Once again we have included an historical article. This time by Andrew David, who has written many scholarly papers and books about his subject, James Cook.

It is desirable that the scope of this journal be broadened to cover the interests of commercial hydrography in fields such as autonomous vehicles and the acoustic and navigational problems of seismic and other vessels concerned with servicing the oil industry. However, the editorial board can only encourage the writing of articles in this broader scope and it is up to the practitioners, both at sea and ashore to contribute the articles. It is hoped that you will heed this encouragement.

Adam J. Kerr
Editor

