



Editorial

This issue will be the final hard copy version of the International Hydrographic Review. In common with many scientific journals, the increasing costs of publishing as hard copy and at the same time the ready access of material published on the Web have dictated this change. The IHR (New Series) has been published under a contractual arrangement with the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) since 2000 with GITC bv and latterly with Reed Business bv. It has now been decided to cease this arrangement and publication will revert to the IHB. The Review will continue as a digital publication available free of charge from the IHO website with up to two peer-reviewed editions a year (April and October) depending on the number of papers and articles submitted and accepted. A printed annual compendium of articles will be made available, free of charge, to IHO Member States only. The above mentioned provisions will begin in 2009. It is important to note that only material that has been peer-reviewed and edited will appear on the website. It is therefore hoped to inform the hydrographic community of the latest developments in the profession and at the same time to continue this important record of progress.

The editor would like to take this opportunity to thank the publishers, all those who have contributed material, the editorial board and reviewers, for maintaining the New Series. It must be noted and stressed that it is quality of contributions that establishes the reputation of a journal and it is essential that the community continues to support the Review by providing interesting articles. Instructions to authors for the digital articles will be much the same as at present and will be published on the website and also available for the author. Dealing with a multi-lingual community authors should not be inhibited from contributing over concerns over a linguistic ability in English. It is hoped that the community will continue to contribute strongly to this publication.

This final hard copy issue includes the usual mix of articles. Starting with an interesting historical article from Australia, it covers various technical matters.

Although the historical article does not have a strong focus on hydrography it touches on the problems of early navigators and the evidence that the first white people to reach Australia were from ships en route to the East Indies. The paper on data management combines two developing interests that have been previously discussed in this journal – LIDAR as a measurement tool and CUBE as a data management device. The Law of the Sea papers discuss on the one hand the immediate and practical geographic problems of defining maritime boundaries and on the other hand, the large scale economic problems of dividing up the oceans. A paper on depth contouring deals with the classic matter that cartographers have faced over many years on the best ways to present hydrographic information. Finally a paper describes the interest of a developing country in developing tidal products.

Adam J. Kerr, Editor