



28 October 2009

Change of Chair for UKHO

Sandra Rogers is to take up the position of Non-Executive Chair to the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) this Autumn, when the current Chairman, David Palmer, steps down after 4.5 years in the post on 31 October.



Pictured from left to right: Sandra Rogers, David Palmer and Mike Robinson (Chief Executive, UKHO)

Sandra is an existing UKHO Non-Executive Board member with considerable experience and a successful career in the commercial and marketing fields. She will hold the position of Chair until the end of June 2010 when her existing contract with UKHO completes. An open competition to appoint a permanent successor will begin early next year.

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In expressing his gratitude for David's Palmer's valuable service, Minister for Veterans and owner of the UKHO, Kevan Jones MP, said: "Under David Palmer's Chairmanship, the UKHO has moved into a position as a world market leader in a truly competitive environment. David Palmer restructured the senior executive team, in accordance with best corporate governance practice. He played a key role in appointing a highly competent executive and non-executive team, and in the process created an effective board."

Mr Jones also highlighted David's key role in the launch of the UKHO's successful and world leading Admiralty Vector Chart Service (AVCS) and the strategic re-orientation of UKHO to face the challenges of switching from analogue to digital products.

Sandra and her eventual successor in the UKHO Chair position will be required to build on David's achievements and, with the current Chief Executive, ensure that this high standard of product delivery continues in the future.

ENDS

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Notes for Editors

1. The UKHO, which is part of the Ministry of Defence, has been charting the world's oceans for more than 200 years with the primary aim of providing navigational services for the Royal Navy and merchant mariners to save and protect lives at sea. In addition it also serves the small craft and leisure mariners and provides a range of consultancy services.
2. The UKHO produces a worldwide series of some 3,300 paper nautical charts and 160 publications under the Admiralty brand and has a growing portfolio of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs). These charts are sold globally and used by nearly 70 per cent of international shipping.
3. The UKHO is a Trading Fund which means it is a government agency owned by the MoD with the freedom to trade commercially to generate revenue and cover running costs.
4. The UKHO also plays a central role, in support of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in discharging the navigation element of the UK's Safety of Life at Sea Treaty obligations for waters of UK national responsibility.
5. AVCS brings together Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) from national hydrographic offices around the world and new ENC coverage produced by UKHO in co-operation with Foreign Governments to provide comprehensive, official, worldwide coverage.