The MCP, or Maritime Connectivity Platform (formerly the Maritime Cloud), concept has been derived as “a communication framework enabling efficient, secure, reliable and seamless electronic information exchange among all authorized maritime stakeholders across available communication systems”, based on the IMO* e-navigation strategy. The vision reaches beyond the IMO strategy, matching the goals of the EU e-maritime initiative and more. MCP consists of the three core components: Maritime Identity Registry, Maritime Service Registry and the Maritime Messaging Service.

A prototype of MCP has been developed through several European initiatives. This needs to be further matured in order to support future operational e-navigation services globally. Therefore, a number of involved organisations initiated a forum dedicated to the development of MCP known as ‘MCDF’.

The overarching goal of this forum is the establishment of a set of international standards and guidelines, a technical operational infrastructure, a governance structure and an organisational framework. This should be achieved through coordination of various initiatives (projects) that are directly involved in the development of these elements.

Following the MCP concept, the MCDF faces the challenge to implement this concept in the maritime domain, actively adopting a set of international standards and guidelines (ISO* / IEC*). Furthermore, the MCDF develops standards for interaction with each component of MCP including technical specification as well as organisational and governing schemes. This contains a technical operational infrastructure, a governance structure and an organisational framework. The MCDF will promote using, developing and publishing open source solutions.

For further information, please visit www.maritimeconnectivityplatform.net

* IMO (International Maritime Organisation), ISO (International Standards Organisation), IEC (International Standards Organisation)