ECDIS Product Lifecycle

ECDIS is a complex computer-based system and, like all computer-based systems, it needs maintenance and updating during its lifecycle.

ECDIS is in use 24/7. It is to be expected that components incurring a lot of heat or activity will wear out: components like the display backlight, power supply units, hard drives, memory chips, CPUs etc. A reasonable life expectation for hardware components, accepted across the computer industry depending on usage, is 5-10 years.

ECDIS hardware will probably need updating to meet the higher processing power required by more complex data in the future. Tidal models, current models, three-dimensional bathymetric charts, for instance, are likely to come into use over the next decade.

ECDIS software must be kept up-to-date to conform to regulatory requirements: IMO SN.1/Circ.266/Rev.1 "Maintenance of ECDIS software" applies. Software updates will also offer enhancements, new features and new services.

PC Maritime provides customers with the following safeguards to ensure that both the hardware and software of Navmaster ECDIS can be kept up-to-date:

- We maintain & renew Type Approvals

- We ensure the hardware is modular, type-approved individually & as part of Navmaster ECDIS, so that "plug and play" replacement is feasible

- We ensure the calibration between processor and display is maintained between as many combinations as possible, so that replacements can be made using the latest equipment

- We maintain & develop the Navmaster ECDIS software in-house by employing two full-time software engineers

- We offer an annual Upgrade and Support Contract for a convenient and affordable service to customers. Support calls are handled direct by PC Maritime.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss this topic further.