INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Terrestrial Services Department

MARITIME MOBILE ACCESS AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM (MARS)

http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/mars/Pages/MARS.aspx

Summary

This document introduces the online information system "Maritime mobile Access and Retrieval System" (**MARS**), which has been developed by the Radiocommunication Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It provides examples of how users can access and retrieve information as well as how administrations can notify information for inclusion into the ITU maritime database.

Introduction
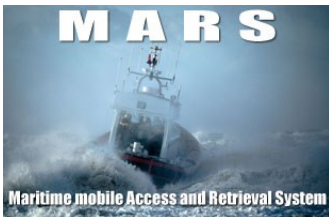
MARS is a free of charge, online access and retrieval system that allows users to consult the information currently registered in the ITU's maritime database system. It is updated on a daily basis.

This webpage provides operational information of Ship and Coast stations, MMSI assigned to AIS Aids to Navigation and SAR Aircraft, and contact information of Accounting Authorities, which have been notified to the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau by the Administrations of ITU Member States.

In this context, administrations should note that changes to operational information and station particulars are to be notified immediately to the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) by administrations, as provided for in provision of No. 20.16 of the Radio Regulations (RR):

20.16 § 12 1) Administrations shall take all appropriate measures to notify the Radiocommunication Bureau immediately of any changes in the operational information contained in Lists IV and V, in view of the importance of this information, particularly with regard to safety. In the case of the data published in List V, which is also made available online through MARS, administrations shall communicate those changes at least once a month. In the case of other publications, administrations shall communicate the changes in the information contained in them as soon as possible..

Any errors observed or requests for updates should be transmitted to ITU through the telecommunication administration having jurisdiction over the station(s) concerned, as the information to be published has to be notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau by administrations of the Member States of the ITU.

MARS essentially provides information on the following, as well as providing links to other maritime-related sites within the Radiocommunication Bureau.

- Particulars of over 740 000 ship stations. This information may be of use to the maritime community to contact individual ships at sea and/or assist maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) authorities in their activities.

- Particulars of over 2 090 coast stations. The operational information provided may be useful for ships at sea to contact coast stations and also for authorities involved in Search and Rescue (SAR) operations including the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

- Particulars of Search and Rescue (SAR) aircraft assigned an MMSI, such as their licensing administration, registration mark/call sign of the aircraft, type of aircraft, the maritime radio equipment on board and contact information.

- Particulars of AIS Aids to Navigation (AtoN) assigned an MMSI, such as their licensing administration, type of AtoN (whether it is real, synthetic or virtual), its dimension (height, width, length) in metres, its geographical position, the type of electronic position fixing device (e.g. GPS, Loran-C, etc.) and contact information.

- Contact information of Accounting Authorities.

- Contact information of administrations which notify data for inclusion into this system as well as the ITU maritime related Service Publications (List IV and List V).

- Compilation of amendments to Lists IV and V.

- Links to letters concerning maritime affairs issued by the Radiocommunication Bureau.

- Maritime related ITU-R Recommendations and Reports;and

- the ITU Global Administrations Database (GLAD). GLAD is an online data-retrieval system and a central repository of ITU-R common information concerning administrations and geographical areas.

Background

For many years, ITU has been gathering and disseminating information, concerning ship, coast and special service stations, through the paper-based ITU Service Publications.

With the advent of the Internet, administrations requested ITU to study the possibility of providing ship station information not only as a paper publication, but also through an electronic online service.

In 1994 the ITU created the MARS system. This system was made available to all members that were registered with the ITU TIES (Telecom Information Exchange Services). Users connected to the Internet using the TIES Gopher server (a system that pre-dates the World Wide Web for organizing and displaying files on Internet servers. A Gopher server presents its contents as a hierarchically structured list of files. With the ascendance of the web, many gopher databases were converted to websites which can be more easily accessed via web search engines).
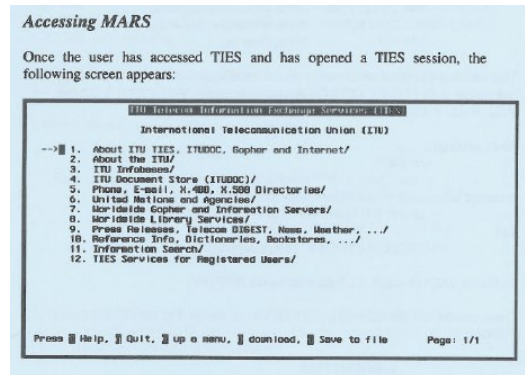
In 1995, ITU MARS became operational on the World Wide Web (WWW). Over the past years, numerous changes have taken place to the information that is available via MARS.

In 1997, WRC-97 adopted Resolution 340. Based on this Resolution the Radiocommunication Bureau incorporated additional information in order to support and facilitate search and rescue activities in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety system (fully implemented in 1999), and to allow Rescue Coordination Centres immediate access to this database.

In 2001, based on an ITU-R Working Party 8B recommendation, the functionality of the MARS system was further enhanced for search and rescue (SAR) purposes by the introduction of a search facility using the EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons).

In 2003, WRC-03 adopted Resolution 353. Based on this Resolution the Radiocommunication Bureau incorporated information concerning Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSI) for equipment other than ship-borne mobile equipment (aircraft stations participating in search and rescue operations, AIS Aids to Navigation (AtoN) and craft associated with the parent ship).

In 2007, WRC-07 made substantive changes to Article 20. One of the changes made to this article was the introduction of the "ITU Maritime mobile Access and Retrieval System (MARS) (WRC-07)" in a new section entitled "Section II – Online information systems (WRC-07)".

Furthermore, through Resolution 356, WRC-07 instructed BR to maintain the online information system for rescue coordination purposes.

**The Maritime mobile Access and Retrieval System (MARS)**

MARS provides search functions to retrieve information concerning ship and coast stations, contact information of accounting authorities and notifying administrations, as well as information concerning SAR aircraft and AIS Aids to Navigation (AtoN) that have been assigned an MMSI.

This system provides administrations with the possibility to download all their ship stations and coast stations that are currently registered with ITU as well as a table that shows the date of receipt of the most recent notification (operational information) submitted to the Radiocommunication Bureau.

In addition, the notification forms used for updating the information published in the maritime related ITU Service Publications and MARS, are also available.

Retrieval of information

In the MARS system, users have to click on the links marked as "Retrieval of information", in order to access the appropriate search screen.
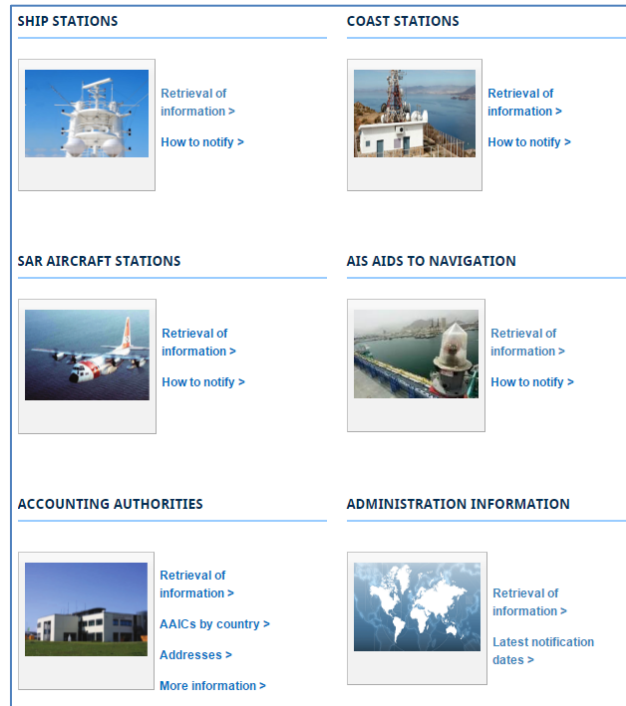
Retrieving data is very straightforward and as an example, the following shows how to retrieve information concerning a ship station with the MMSI.

• Example (Retrieve ship station data using an MMSI):

– Click on the "Retrieval of information" link.

– The following screen appears:

Particulars of Ship stations

Note (Errors and omissions):
The data contained in the ITU maritime database(s) is provided only by the Telecommunications Administration having jurisdiction over the station(s) concerned.
Users should therefore bring to the attention of their respective Administrations any necessary amendment of the data (errors or missing information) so that the appropriate information can be transmitted to the ITU via official channels.

Conventional search method *(enter either the full or partial string)*

Ship Name	
Call Sign	
MMSI	636014966
Administrations/geographical areas	

Supplementary search method *(enter full string)*:

EPIRB ID code	(MMSI / MID + Call Sign)
EPIRB Hex ID code	
IMO or national registration no.	

Submit Query   Clear Query

Type the information (i.e. MMSI) into the appropriate field and submit the query

– In case an administration (flag state) has not yet notified the information to ITU, the following information is displayed.

Ship Name	Call Sign	MMSI	EPIRB ID code	Country symbol
		No records found for given criteria		
		Please contact the licensing Administration : -> Particulars of Administrations and Geographical areas		

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Contact for this page : ITU-R Webmaster

– Otherwise, a list containing brief details of the retrieved station is displayed.

Ship Name	Call Sign	MMSI	IMO No	EPIRB ID code	Admin.	Geo. area
AARTI PREM	A8QY3	636014966	9087738	636014966	LBR	LBR
		Number of records found = 1				

– Click on the link of the retrieved ship. The following screen appears containing all the notified information.

Particulars - Ship Name: AARTI PREM

Administration	: Liberia
Geo. Area	: Liberia (Republic of)
Ship Name	: AARTI PREM
Call Sign	: A8QY3
Selcal No.(s)	:
MMSI	: 636014966
MMSI No.(craft associated with parent ship)	:
Inmarsat No.(s)	: 463703163, 600958619-20, 764873925-27
Boats	:
EPIRBs	: BE1G2
Ship class	: MM BLK
Corresp.	: CP
Hours	: H24
RTG Band	:
AAIC	: CY03
AA info.	:
Owner	: MERCATOR LINES (SINGAPORE) LIMITED
Ex Ship Name	:
Ex Call Sign	:
EPIRB ID code	: 636014966
EPIRB Hex ID code	:
Vessel Id. No.	: 9087738
Gross Tonnage	:
Person Capacity	:
Radio Installation	: INMARSAT C,F,VHF,MF/HF/DSC
Modification date	: 03/03/2011

Terr. Serv.	: CD
RTF Band	: STUV
AAIC SAT	:

Emergency Contact

The procedure for retrieving information, concerning other types of stations, is rather similar.

Notification of data

The Radiocommunication Bureau accepts only notifications that have been submitted by the responsible administration of an ITU Member State.

Clicking on any of the highlighted links below directs the user to the appropriate screen containing the notification forms as well as some complimentary information necessary for completing the forms (such as the Preface, etc.).
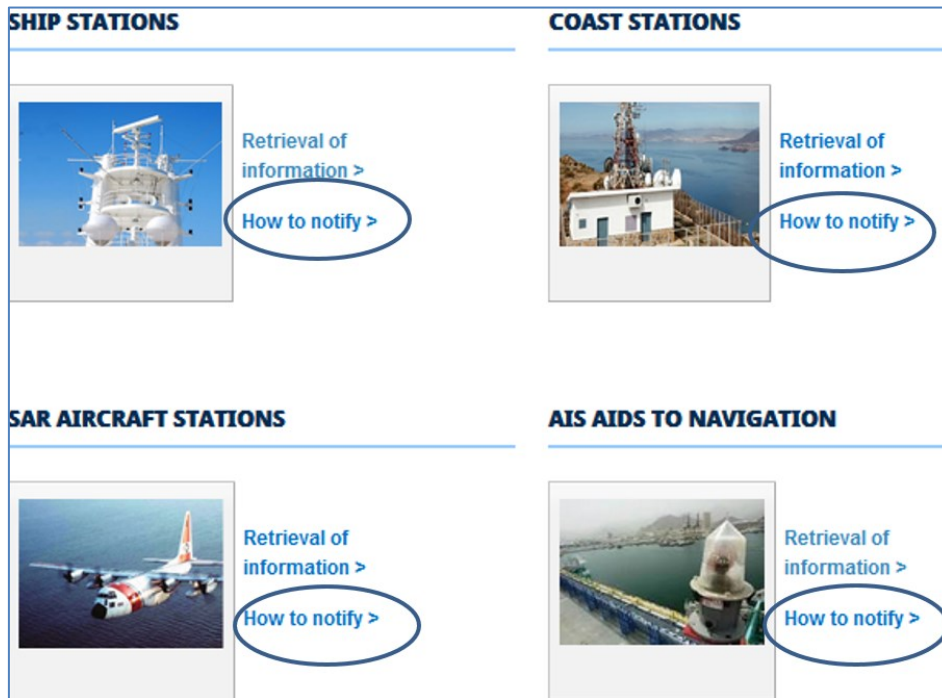
– As an example the following shows how to access notification forms concerning the "List V - List of Ship Stations and Maritime Mobile Service Identity Assignments".

• Example (Access notification forms for notifying ship station data):

Click on the link "Notification"

The following screen appears:

List of Ship Stations and Maritime Mobile Service Identity Assignments - Notification

YOU ARE HERE   HOME   > ITU-R   > TERRESTRIAL SERVICES   > MARS   > LIST OF SHIP STATIONS AND MARITIME MOBILE
SERVICE IDENTITY ASSIGNMENTS - NOTIFICATION   SHARE

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Only notifications submitted by the responsible Administration or by an Accounting Authority authorized by a licensing Administration (ITU-T Recommendation D.90), will be accepted by the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Provision No. 20.16 of the Radio Regulations states that:

- Administrations shall take all appropriate measures to notify the Radiocommunication Bureau immediately of any changes in the operational information contained in Lists IV and V, in view of the importance of this information, particularly with regard to safety.
- In the case of the data published in List V, which is also made available online through MARS, administrations shall communicate those changes at least once a month.
- In the case of other publications, administrations shall communicate the changes in the information contained in them as soon as possible.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Preface and Reference tables

Symbols which designate classes of ships and other abbreviations

Description of fields

PAPER NOTIFICATION FORM

Notification form (MSWord)

Notification form (PDF)

Example

ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION

Data elements for electronic notification (PDF)

Example

NOTIFICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO

The Director of Radiocommunication Bureau-ITU, Place des Nations.
CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.
Direct Telefax. No.: +41 22 730 5785,
Email: brmail@itu.int

–   Under General information complimentary information is provided.

All notifications, sent via post, email or fax, should be addressed to:

The attention of "The Director of Radiocommunication Bureau-ITU"

Postal address: Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Direct telefax: +41 22 730 5785

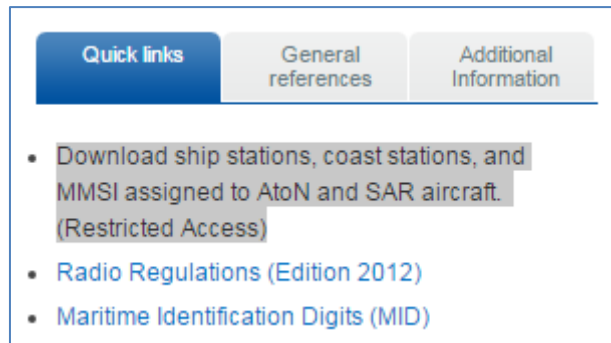Direct e-mail: brmail@itu.int

Other information provided

Retrieving notified information (Restricted Access)

Under the "Quick links" tab, an administration can download all their ship, coast and other maritime stations that have been notified for inclusion into this system as well as the ITU maritime related Service Publications (List IV and V).

By clicking on this link, the following screen appears. By using the unique username and password, which has been provided by the BR, an administration can access their notified data.
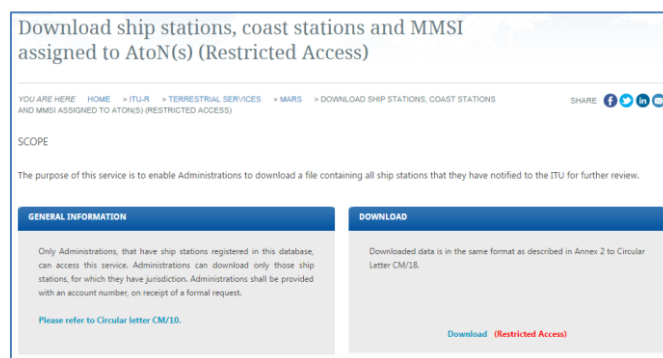
Circular letters

The Radiocommunication Bureau informs administrations on changes that have occurred in the ITU maritime database and related ITU Service Publications. These letters may refer to the development of new forms for submission of data or new features that are made available on MARS, etc.

Maritime Identification Digits (MID), call sign series, etc.

Finally, MARS provides a link to the online data retrieval-system GLobal Administration Data system (GLAD), which is the central repository of ITU-R common information concerning administrations and geographical areas.

Conclusion

As for any database system the quality of the information that is disseminated depends on the quality of information submitted.

Importance of the information

Notified information has in the past and will in the future assist in saving lives at sea

Provide ship and shore-based information that facilitates communications for global shipping

Administrations should note that maritime rescue coordination centres (MRCC) consider MARS as one of their key providers of information. It is therefore imperative that MARS provides them with the most comprehensive data. If a situation arises where the information provided is deemed to be inaccurate it would not only prove to be detrimental to the good working of the MRCC, but MARS would also lose some its credibility and effectiveness.

The Bureau is of the opinion that administrations, being the sole source of information, should review their submission practices and fulfil their obligations as stipulated in Article 20 of the Radio Regulations cited below:

20.16 § 12 1) Administrations shall take all appropriate measures to notify the Radiocommunication Bureau immediately of any changes in the operational information contained in Lists IV and V, in view of the importance of this information, particularly with regard to safety. In the case of the data published in List V, which is also made available online through MARS, administrations shall communicate those changes at least once a month. In the case of other publications, administrations shall communicate the changes in the information contained in them as soon as possible. (WRC-07)

This will ensure that MARS provides its users with the most up-to-date and accurate information, which can only enhance its position as a reliable global provider of data for the MRCC in carrying out their duties with regard, in particular, to safety at sea, and also for all other members of the maritime community.

As in the past, the Radiocommunication Bureau shall continue to provide the necessary infrastructure and services to update the maritime databases with the information submitted by administrations, and to publish this information on time, while at the same time providing electronic access to the same via the MARS system.

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