

4 September 2007

Navy cartographers win first prize in Moscow

Cartographers from the Navy's Australian Hydrographic Service in Wollongong have won first place in the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Cartographic Exhibition in Moscow.

In an open competition from 20 countries including France, Russia and China, it was the entry by the Australian Hydrographic Service that took home the award.

"The IHO Cartographic Exhibition at the International Cartographic Conference was organised by the Russian Department of Navigation and Hydrography and judged by an international panel," Hydrographer of Australia Captain Rod Nairn said.

"We are particularly pleased because we have now won this prestigious Exhibition twice in a row."

Japan came second and the Netherlands came third in the Exhibition competition.

The International Cartographic Conference is a biannual conference organised by the International Cartographic Association (ICA) to promote the discipline and profession of cartography in an international context.

The ICA was formed in 1959 as a forum for the free exchange of theoretical and technical cartographic information between countries, and is increasingly involved in technical projects such as virtual environments, satellite mapping, visualisation and spatial data standards, as well as community-minded projects such as maps for the blind.

"The Navy's Australian Hydrographic office in Wollongong employs more than 50 cartographers and publishes more than 450 nautical charts that are available worldwide," Captain Nairn said.

"We are constantly updating and refining our digital and paper products.

"This international recognition of cartographic excellence is great for Australia as part of the global community."

The next International Cartographic Conferences will take place in Santiago, Chile in November 2009 and in Paris, France in 2011.