



## **IC-ENC Latin America: First birthday!**

By: IC-ENC Latin America (LA) RENC Group

The regional IC-ENC Office in Brazil became fully operational on June 21st 2016. It has been a year of learning, hard work and dedication to keep IC-ENC's validation high levels on time.

The main reason for the existence of the regional office is to provide a personalized support to the Latin-American Hydrographic Services in order to better serve their needs regarding the production and validation of electronic nautical charts. And this task the office was performed with mastery because of the easy communication due to the language and time zone, helping the countries to improve the quality of the ENC's available in the market which increase every day. Not only Latin American ENC's were validated here, as part of IC-ENC's global operating model, countries like Russia, Italy, Denmark, England, Pakistan, Netherlands, Germany, United States, Spain, Portugal and many others had the ENC's validated by our Office.

The first cell validated was the New Cell BR501712. During this first year we have validated more than 862 Updates, 382 New Editions and 173 New Cells by our validators Lieutenant Ana Mileze and Corporal Bruna Pinheiro.



The two validators participated of the IC-ENC International ENC Validation Training course in Panama (2015), a 2-week familiarisation training course at IC-ENC main office in Taunton on December (2015) and from February to April 2016 the main Taunton training course. This one also included the NOAA validators from IC-ENC North America, Robert Ciepiela and Jenny Thacker.

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*Left to right: Bruna Pinheiro, Jenny Thacker, Ana Mileze, Rob Ciepiela*

At the end of the training course all validators participated the 1st IC-ENC Technical Conference in Taunton.





Corporal Bruna was also invited to assist the translation during the 2nd training course in Panama (2016) and work at IC-ENC Stand at IHO Conference in Monaco (2017). The feedback from the attendees indicated this was an excellent service and very valuable in helping make the course so useful.



More recently, Corporal Bruna also represented IC-ENC at its stand at the first IHO Assembly, explaining the IC-ENC services to representatives from many different Hydrographic Offices around the world.





During this first year we received many visitors from different countries.

From the UK, Admiral Tim Lowe from UKHO visited the office before it became operational, followed by Mr. Chris Thorne and Mr. Lee Truscott in October 2016.



On December 2016 we also received the visit of new Chairman of IC-ENC Captain Marc van der Donck and the General Manager Mr. James Harper.



On March 2017 we received the visit of the Japanese Hydrographic Service.



And the members of SWAtCH and observer countries: Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia and Paraguay





Commander Paulo Trino from Brazilian Cartographical Merit Order visited the Office in February and was very impressed and proud for this big step achieved, an important contribution to the safety of navigation.

On April 2017, we received the visit from the Navy Commander from Sri Lanka Vice Admiral Ravindra Chandrasiri WIJEGUNARATNE, Ambassador General Jagath JAYASURIYA and Navy Lieutenant Korale Gamage Chatura M. GAMAGE.

In summary, although it is a very busy office with the high levels of validation required, it is clear that the establishment of the IC-ENC Latin America office is a success. This is achieved through the high support from DHN, the dedication of the appointed staff, and the continued liaison and co-operation between the Latin America office, the UK headquarters, and the two other regional offices in US and Australia.