



## MarTEL Plus Project summary

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The MarTEL Plus project complements and extends the recently concluded Leonardo da Vinci MarTEL project. The MarTEL project has been extremely well received and was invited to present their results at the 2010 IMO STW41 session. The MarTEL project created the first international Maritime English standards for Officers and Port Officials in the Merchant Navy in a response to the need for a set of international standards to be created in the 2006 IMO STW meeting. These standards have now been created and are expected to be implemented in Maritime Education and Training (MET) sectors across Europe shortly. At present there are no Maritime English standards other than those developed recently by MarTEL and MarTEL does not

include standards of Maritime English for maritime workers and seafarers below the rank of Officer i.e. Ratings. In the 2010 IMO STW41 meeting, the training requirements for ratings were revised in line with new competence requirements for officers of watch for inclusion in the revised STCW-95 Convention and Code. Therefore using the standards already created for Officers in the MarTEL project, the MarTEL Plus project will create an additional standard for Maritime English at foundation level for Ratings (Phase R). This additional standard will not only improve safety at sea and in ports but it will also transfer the knowledge developed throughout the MarTEL project to a wider target group thus increasing the usability of the MarTEL standards.



This project is particularly timely for Turkey where there is a shortage of officers but huge surplus of ratings many with no or little knowledge of Maritime English. OECD in 2003 reported that Turkey had some 1024 ships with a demand for officers of 16208 with an officer supply of 13602, a shortage of 2606. With regards to ratings the demand was noted to be 19747 with a supply of 45929, a huge surplus of 26182. Although the situations in other countries are somewhat different nevertheless the BIMCO/ISF 2005 manpower update estimated the worldwide demand for seafarers is 420,000 Officers and 599,000 Ratings concluding that there is a shortage of 16,000 Officers. MarTEL Plus is expected to provide Ratings in Turkey and indeed anywhere in Europe with the opportunity to upgrade their education through standards such as MarTEL Phase R and hence the

project offers them an opportunity of lifetime and at the same time the project supports the international shipping community to overcome the officer shortages. In any case the unemployment figure for the EU is now averaging some 10%. Setting aside the OECS and BIMCO/ISF figures, the shipping capacity requirement forecast for 2010 was noted to be 1.100.000.000 DWT, this alone requires, as will be stated later, additional number of merchant navy officers worldwide of over 100.000. One way of overcoming this anticipated shortage is to support ratings to become officers. Some 10% of them in Turkey through the SOS programme (Safety On Sea, 2005-2007) research were found to be able to succeed in this endeavour.

It is also necessary to make sure that all candidates training to be Ratings or Officers are taught in a constructive and appropriate way so that they may achieve one or more of the MarTEL standards. In order to do this, research must be carried out as to how best to implement the knowledge required to pass the MarTEL tests into MET curricula. This involves spending time looking at the way in which Maritime English Instructors teach the English language and maritime terminology to their students.

The MarTEL Plus project will also aim to help Maritime English teaching staff to implement the MarTEL standards into their teaching through a set of comprehensive teachers' guidelines. These guidelines will be based on the ISM code, STCW-95 convention and code and will adopt a combined general English and Maritime English teaching approach currently practiced in one of the MarTEL sites namely, TUDEV institute of Maritime studies in Turkey.

There will be a set of guidelines for each MarTEL standard including the new foundation standard for Ratings that will require special attention. The guidelines will bring together all of the MarTEL study guidelines, units and other learning material to form a comprehensive tool that will help teachers to prepare their students to achieve at least one or two of the MarTEL standards.



Additional research will be undertaken to improve the existing assessment process for MarTEL test centres especially for Ratings. This will help to make sure that students are assessed accurately, fairly and in an appropriate way so that they may achieve the MarTEL standard relevant to them.

The MarTEL Plus project has emanated from feedback that has been received since the MarTEL project's conclusion in October 2009. It has been identified from this feedback that one of the areas where the existing MarTEL project could be enhanced is through the speaking section. The MarTEL Plus project has taken this onboard and proposes a two-tier system for the assessment of the speaking skill.

This two-tier system will consist of the current MarTEL test and a separate oral exam which will be assessed through a one-to-one session with a qualified examiner. This would allow for a greater reliability than the MarTEL speaking test currently offers and a fairer assessment of a candidate's ability to speak English. Having the two forms of speaking assessment will also act as a quality assurance system as the oral exam will be recorded and sent to the verification centre in the UK where it can then be verified

against the internet recordings given in the original MarTEL test enabling the candidate to be fairly and accurately assessed. The arrangement would also provide an opportunity to assess the examiner's ability to measure a candidate's speaking skill.

MarTEL Plus would also include an important facility that was not considered by the MarTEL Project. In order to aid students with preparation for the MarTEL phase tests including for Ratings, a learning and revision application using mobile phones for each of the different phases will be created.

This will allow test takers to prepare for their tests when an opportunity arises and from any location at sea or onshore. This mobile learning/revision tool will not only extend the materials available to the test takers but also allow for easier accessibility to these materials. The increased access will inevitably lead to more users.

#### **THE CONSORTIUM**

MarTEL Plus will be carried out from 1 October 2010 for 24 months. The consortium will consist of eight active partners including the project co-ordinator C4FF. The provisional eight active partners are as follows:

