



Support for Maritime Training (SMarT) – Additional Funds of up to £3 Million

Notice to all merchant ship owners and managers, masters, deck and engineering officers and ratings of merchant vessels and those concerned with maritime training.

*This notice should be read in conjunction with MGN 455 (M) and MIN 466 (M).
This MIN expires March 2016*

Summary

Details of the Government Support for Maritime Training Scheme (SMarT) are found in Marine Guidance Note 455 (M) and Marine Information Note (MIN) 466 (M). This MIN has been issued to advise Industry of the increased Government commitment to SMarT until March 2016.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Government is committed to ensuring that mechanisms and infrastructure are in place to enable the maritime industry to build on what it has achieved in the past. It continues to invest in the future maritime workforce through the 'Support for Maritime Training' (SMarT) Scheme which has an annual budget of £12m.
- 1.2 On the 9th September 2013 the Transport Secretary, Mr Patrick McLoughlin, announced that the SMarT budget, over the Spending Review period to the end of 2015/16, would receive an increase of **up to £3m a year**, in recognition of the importance of sustaining the UK's skills base for this important sector.

2. Additional Funding

- 2.1 The increase in funds will primarily be used to support the training of additional Officer Trainees through SMarT 1.
- 2.2 The current restrictions within Marine Guidance Note 455 (M) Paragraphs 13.1 to 13.4 have been removed during the Spending Review period.
- 2.3 New companies who meet the eligibility criteria¹ and have new and eligible Officer Trainees² may apply to join the SMarT Scheme with immediate effect.

¹ Training Provider eligibility criteria as stated in Paragraph 13.5 of Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 455 (M).

² Trainee eligibility criteria as stated in Paragraph 8.1 of MGN 455 (M).



2.4 Consideration will also be given to new client companies who meet the eligibility criteria¹ and have new and eligible Officer Trainees².

2.5 Existing Training Providers and Consortiums (client companies) will be eligible for funding for additional trainees who meet the SMarT Officer Trainee Eligibility².

2.6 Existing client companies (who already meet the eligibility criteria) who are interested in becoming a Training Provider in their own right will also be considered providing they have new and eligible Officer Trainees.

3. How to Apply

3.1 To apply please contact the SMarT Administering Body (AB), MaTSU, as follows:

The SMarT Administrator
MaTSU
The Gemini Building
Fermi Avenue
Harwell
Didcot
OX11 0QR

Tel: 01235 753244

e-mail: Smart-MCA-Enquiries@ricardo-aea.com

More Information

Seafarer Training and Certification
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 1/21
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9183
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9252
e-mail: smart@mcga.gov.uk

General Inquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

MCA Website Address: www.dft.gov.uk/mca

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