

Obtaining a vessel's position using VHF DSC Polling

- A VHF marine radio, with DSC capability, can be used to send the vessel's position, using the Routine Call function, to another VHF DSC radio station (providing that the GPS is connected to the VHF DSC radio on the vessel).
- Polling is an 'automatic' method of obtaining the position of one radio station by another. N.B. Not all VHF DSC radios are capable of Polling, or, of being Polled.
- To establish a Polling capability by a Base station, for a vessel at sea, the following is required:

<u>Item</u>	<u>approx cost</u>
➤ Both radio stations (e.g. base station and vessel at sea) must have a VHF DSC radio with Polling capability, such as the NAVMAN 7200 or ICOM M604 models.	\$ 400.00
➤ Both stations must obtain a MMSI from AMSA.	Nill cost
➤ The GPS must be connected to the VHF DSC on the vessel (using at least a twin core cable to carry the NMEA data).	Negligible
➤ The base station VHF DSC radio must be connected to a serial or USB port on a PC, or Note Book computer (using at least a twin core cable to carry the NMEA data).	Negligible
➤ If a Lap top computer is used to display the vessel positions on an electronic chart it may not have a serial port and a USB to serial converter cable will be required. A DB 9 connecting plug will also be required.	\$ 50.00
➤ SOB (Software-On-Board) software must be purchased from DigiBOAT and loaded onto the PC or Lap top computer. A free trail version can be downloaded from the DigiBOAT web site http://www.digiboat.com.au/ . However, the 'Unlock Code' must be purchased.	\$ 65.00
➤ A C-Map NT+MAX navigation chart for the area of water to be covered must also be purchased.	\$ 200.00
➤ If the C-Map NT+MAX chart is purchased on a card, a USBMM Card Reader, or similar, must be purchased.	\$ 200.00
Approx total cost (excluding a PC or Lap top computer)	= \$ 900.00

The DigiBoat website <http://www.digiboat.com.au/> has all the information required to put the system together.

Minimum Wiring Schematic for Ship-to-Shore

Each radio must have an MMSI number programmed in for the DSC functions to be enabled, and the ship radio must have GPS connected (optional in shore radio)

