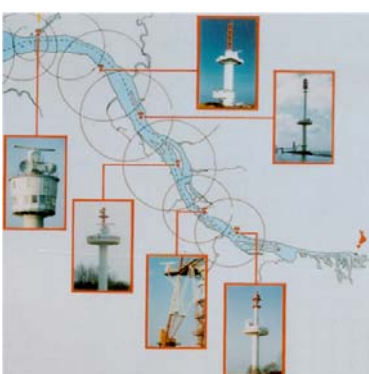
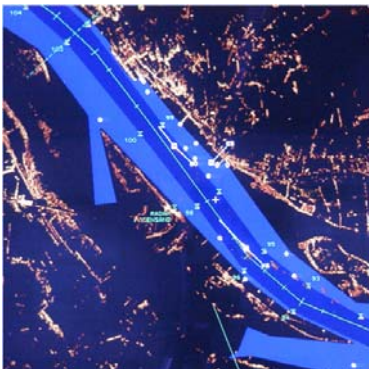


Safe and Efficient Vessel Traffic A principal WSV task



The Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration provides information, assistance and instruction for ships in order to ensure efficient and safe vessel traffic on the waterways. The Vessel Traffic Service Centers (VTS-C) communicate continuously with the ships. Data on ships, particularly on their position are gained by means of AIS and land-based radar and transmitted to the VTS-C. VTS operators (nautical WSV personnel) broadcast updated information on vessel traffic in the area regularly and give individual advice at an early stage to avert danger. If necessary, they can directly act by order as vessel traffic police and take appropriate action.

To ensure efficient and safe vessel traffic, furthermore pilotage is mandatory on many marine and coastal waterways, e. g. on the Elbe (approach from the North Sea to Hamburg) for vessels of more than 90 m length, 13 m beam or 6,5 m draft.

