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THE PROJECT

AUTOSHIP – Autonomous Shipping Initiative for European Waters – aims at speeding-up the transition towards a next generation of autonomous ships in EU.

The project will build and operate 2 different autonomous vessels, demonstrating their operative capabilities in Short Sea Shipping and Inland Water Ways scenarios, with a focus on goods mobility.

The new autonomous ships will help ship operators and owners to improve the economy of scale of their investments, to effectively gain competitiveness and renew their fleets, making them more competitive to replace road transport: they will reduce costs and improve the overall efficiency on-board (less fuel and logistic procedures) based on an advanced technology for monitoring, data fusion and communication with a more evolved network. Interoperability and IoT will increase safety, security and speed of every operation.

The use cases developed within the project will optimize efforts and investments in order to advance common standards and enabling operations in a shorter timeframe than expected: this will allow commercial applications of the technology behind the next generation of autonomous ships by the end of 2023.

OBJECTIVES

In AUTOSHIP a joint effort of industrial partners and multi-domain experts, will result in the realisation and demonstration of two vessels and their complete use-cases characterisation during the time frame of the project.

To achieve this ambitious target, the AUTOSHIP project will last 54 months addressing 9 Specific Objectives (SO) answering all the challenges of the call

S01|Building and Operating Autonomous Ship at TRL 7

S02 | Demonstrating Key Enabling Technologies

S03 | Develop Standard, tools and methods

S04 | Digital Upgrade

S05 | Skilled and Updated Operators

S06 | Regulatory and socio-economic Framework

S07 | Business case and models

S08 | Roadmap to intercontinental R&A navigation

S09 | Communication acceptance and dissemination

Pioneer and Zulu4 are the two ships that the AUTOSHIP consortium will make autonomous by 2023.

The activities are currently focusing on the preparation of the vessels. New sensors and upgrades of essential automation, control and navigation system have been installed, as well as required modification for Key-Enabling Technologies (KET) integration.

In addition, connectivity systems are being installed to provide operational data for use in the different tasks related to the Demonstration & Validation of Enabling technologies for short-sea shipping and inland waterways. This will all serve as an imperative platform for the demonstration of the installed KET's and sub functions.





