

# Safety and Assurance of Autonomous Ships: Framing of Research Actions



Knowledge for a better world

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# Agenda

- About SFI AutoShip
- Joint industry and research challenges
- Selected research focus



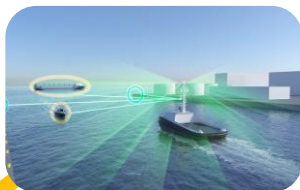
# SFI AutoShip

- Research-based innovation centre headed
- Headed by NTNU
- 8 years (2020-2028)
- Increase the adaption of autonomous systems and technologies
- 23 partners
- Educating > 20 PhDs, > 5 Postdocs, 50-100 master students



# Research scope and applications

**WP1: AutoRemote**  
Developing autonomy that manage complex environments



**WP2: Digital infrastructure**  
Optimizing communication capacity for robustness and security



**WP3: HF and ROC**  
Monitoring from shore –  
Design and operation with people in new roles



**WP5: Sustainable Operations**  
Ensuring sustainability of total transport solution



## Use cases:

Raising level of autonomy for:

- Deepsea shipping
- Short sea shipping
  - Ferries
- Unmanned surface vessels

**WP4: Safety and Assurance:**  
Incorporating risk and safety management in design and operation



*Illustration/photos: NCL, KM, NTNU and Massterly*

# Joint industry and research challenges



*Safety can create the business cases, but lack of safety can also violate them.*

## *Lack of:*



Ability to translate regulations into technical requirements

Ability to address software faults in risk assessments

Ability to incorporate effect of changes in the operating environment for online risk monitoring

Ability to capture dependencies and coupling of interacting systems

Effective use of digital twin for safety demonstration in the whole lifecycle

# Selected research first phase



## Legal deployment

### Motivation:

Autonomous vessels a unique opportunity of exploring topics which delve deeper into the relationship between Law and technology

### Tasks:

- Legal analysis and application in court
- Develop legally-substantiated explanation of rules to deploy in autonomous systems

### Use case:



## Risk related to software

### Motivation:

Software risk in the maritime environment in early stage of development and understanding. Existing practices from the automotive and railway industries. Are restrictive in terms of high-level autonomous functions.

### Tasks:

- Development of software risk and failure taxonomy
- Integration of software risk into risk methods
- Suggest countermeasures

### Use case:



## Use of DT for safety demonstration

### Motivation:

Digital twins have been used in different domains for several years now but approaches to represent autonomous systems with digital twins started recently.

### Tasks:

- Identify requirements to digital twin and environment for safety demonstration
- Build a prototype to test with applicable use cases

### Use case:



## Reliable Design & Operation

### Motivation:

Electric propulsion plants may suffer from complex failure modes and require careful and predictive maintenance. Critical failures may create unsafe situations.

### Tasks:

- Investigate the reliability and safety combining qualitative and quantitative methods
  - Incorporating hydrodynamics for stability analysis and prediction of grounding.

### Use case:



## Online risk monitoring

### Motivation:

Autonomous ships will be subjected to dynamic factors, such as equipment degrading and changing environmental factors, affecting risks. Must be considered in the autonomous system and tools for decision-making.

### Tasks:

- Develop online risk models, developed on the basis of identifying hazards related to safety and security
- Test the risk models and their use for decision-making

### Use case:



# Thanks for your attention

## Questions?

[www.ntnu.edu/sfi-autoship](http://www.ntnu.edu/sfi-autoship)

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Autonomous ships



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