

Towards an informal International Correspondence Group...

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[International Association of Institutes of Navigation]

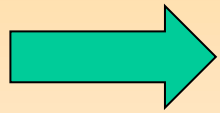
Autonomous vessels

Accelerating growth in autonomous vessels is inevitable for many reasons:

- Mainstream activity across all transport sectors with good public awareness and interest
- Meets the ever-growing and 'politically-correct' obsessions with:
 - Improving safety
 - Better environmental protection
 - The elimination of human errors – and stupidity
- Ever-maturing technical capability, especially in machine intelligence
- New (and very real) commercial opportunities for owners and service users
- Increased effectiveness for critical applications, not least defence
- ...

Obvious need for:

Operational compatibility with conventional manned vessels



Needs international agreement for legislation concerning:

- Conduct in all 'non-internal' waters
- Build standards for larger or potentially all autonomous vessels operating in such waters

The International Maritime Organization is the natural route to ensure such operational compatibility

Interested countries need to ...

Get the subject onto IMO's agenda

- Emphasising the need for agreed legislation
- Pointing out the issues if legislation is not unified
- Suggesting pragmatic possibilities for the direction of legislation

The UK, in association with IAIN and IMarEST have made a preliminary start in this direction



It now needs a truly international approach – even if potentially different to the preliminary UK work

The formation of an informal International Correspondence Group appears to be the next sensible step

What are your views?