EfficienSea 2

Getting Connected to the Future

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EfficienSea 2 is an EU Horizon 2020 funded project led by the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA), with 32 partners. This three-year Project started in May 2015 and held its mid-term conference in Copenhagen on 8 and 9 November 2016.

‘Safe connectivity made easy’ were the defining words of the conference. Two platforms – the Maritime Cloud and the BalticWeb – were released in BETA versions and demonstrated with a number of services.

There were keynote presentations from Francis Zachariae, Secretary General of IALA on ‘Bringing the Maritime Sector into the Digital Age’ and from Troels Blicher Danielsen, Deputy Director General of the DMA, on ‘How will digitalization and connectivity change shipping and Maritime Authorities?’

These were followed by an introduction to the Maritime Cloud and a demonstration of its core elements – the identity and service registries. A further keynote from the Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM) gave an industry point of view on how new, standardized, digital services will affect suppliers of navigational equipment.

The aim of the conference was to give both industry and other actors outside the project a chance to become familiar with and give feedback on the e-Navigation solutions being developed by EfficienSea2. Project Leader Thomas Christensen from the DMA explained:

‘We are very pleased with the chance to showcase our results. We want EfficienSea2 to make the maritime world both safer and more efficient, but in order for that to happen, we need to be in a constructive dialogue with the industry. The first products are starting to materialise, so input is more important than ever.’
**Broad range of solutions**
The Maritime Cloud was the first thing to be demonstrated at the conference. Consisting of a service registry, an identity registry and a management portal, the Maritime Cloud will make it possible to connect the end user of services with the service providers in a way which is both user friendly and safe.

The participants at the conference could for the first time experience the simple process of registering a ship in the identity registry, a service in the service registry and how the two registers are connected in the Maritime Cloud.

Participants were then introduced to the geographical display/web-based platform BalticWeb, which covers the Baltic Region. On stage, it was demonstrated how a registered user in the Maritime Cloud can sign into BalticWeb and connect to approved services, which will then be displayed in a safe and easy way.

Examples of services that will be included in the Maritime Cloud were also given. Service providers will in the future be free to provide solutions based on certain standards and services, developed by EfficienSea2, such as navigational warnings and satellite images were demonstrated.

The BalticWeb was introduced as a platform for e-navigation services. Demonstrations were given of harmonized, digital navigation services, including real-time chart updates, navigational warnings and notices to mariners. Smart wayfinding using data overlays was presented, with optimized routeing on the Baltic Web, using weather and ice prognosis as a way of finding efficient routes, as well as space weather prediction for more accurate navigation. Sea/shore integration was demonstrated, with route sharing ship-to-shore and information sharing between VTS/SRS* for efficient SAR operations.

The conference closed with a presentation from Cobham SATCOM on ‘What will connectivity mean for shipping?’

**Feedback from the industry**
More than 170 participants attended the conference and the chance to get feedback was an essential goal for the EfficienSea2 project.

Some participants praised the project for its ambitions and many urged the EfficienSea2 project to enhance focus on harmonising standards.

Another feedback point heard throughout the conference was the need for fast implementation of digital ideas in the maritime sector.
‘It is time to move from idea and development to implementation’ was one of the comments repeated by the participants.

In the days following the conference, the 32 partners included in the project met for a partners’ meeting. The conference and the feedback received were discussed and will be used to complete the EfficienSea2 project and ensure the solutions have a long term impact.

The project is set to be completed by May 2018.

*Vessel Traffic Services / Ship Reporting Systems