First operational STM ship systems installed on-board

The STM Validation project has successfully installed the first Sea Traffic Management (STM) compatible bridge systems, connecting ships with shore based services and actors. All available functions are working flawlessly, including route optimization and synchronised port calls, as well as sending and receiving route segments ship to ship. The ships equipped are “Stena Germanica” and two rescue units from Swedish Sea Rescue Society (SSRS), “Rescue Märta Collin” and “Rescue 11-00”.

The route message format used, developed as a part of the STM Validation project, is transmitted to other ships over ordinary AIS, improving the common situational awareness. The officer of the watch will see up to seven route segments of other ships, allowing him or her to predict meeting points, determine the closest point of approach (CPA), the time it will happen and at an early stage identify and avoid close situations. It will be very useful for ships in narrow channels and fairways with limited manoeuvrability.

Stena Germanica, while on route from Gothenburg to Kiel, automatically shared her route with the two rescue vessels, and at the same time received their routes and displayed them on the ECDIS.

The pictures are displays on “Stena Germanica” outbound from Gothenburg. They show two AIS targets: ’RS 1100’ on portside and ’RS Marta Collin’ on starboard side. Left picture is the normal presentation of own ship, monitored route and the two AIS targets. Right picture includes STM-functions, which shows the two routes from the AIS targets. The STM ECDIS predict intersection points between ships route and CPA. A short blue perpendicular line indicates where ’RS 1000’ will be on her route when ”Stena Germanica’ will be in the intersection point blue circle. The two small blue dots on the routes represent the CPA position of the two ships. The intersection point and CPA position displayed for ’RS Marta Collin’ is in a different colour - red.

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Anders Rydlinger, Director for Ship Solutions at Transas, digital, innovative solutions company, says:

“Through information sharing between ship and shore using the Maritime Cloud/ SeaSWIM infrastructure, we are creating a cohesive community, which enables better communications and joined-up decision making. This leads to higher operational standards, greater environmental performance, increased efficiency and improved safety record.”

Lars Littke, SSRS volunteer and Coxswain at “Märta Collin” says:

“During the installation tests, the routes were planned in advance and sent to the rescue units. This route sharing operation is very simple with the STM infrastructure and can be useful in real rescue operations. The capability to broadcast and share transport- and entry-routes into an area as well as routes for search patterns is a great improvement. It will simplify communication, make SAR-operations more efficient and hopefully save more lives.”

The STM test beds will include 300 ships, 13 ports and at least 5 shore centres.

Seeing is believing!

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STM connects and updates the maritime world in real time with efficient information exchange. In the 60s the standardised container revolutionised shipping. The next revolution is the containerisation of information – creating a safer, more efficient and environmentally friendly maritime sector.