



VOLKER BERTRAM, TORSTEN SCHROEDER

# Aktuelle Entwicklungsszenarien für Smart und Unmanned Shipping und ihre Auswirkungen auf das HRM

## Introduction: Why Smart and Unmanned?

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## Definitions

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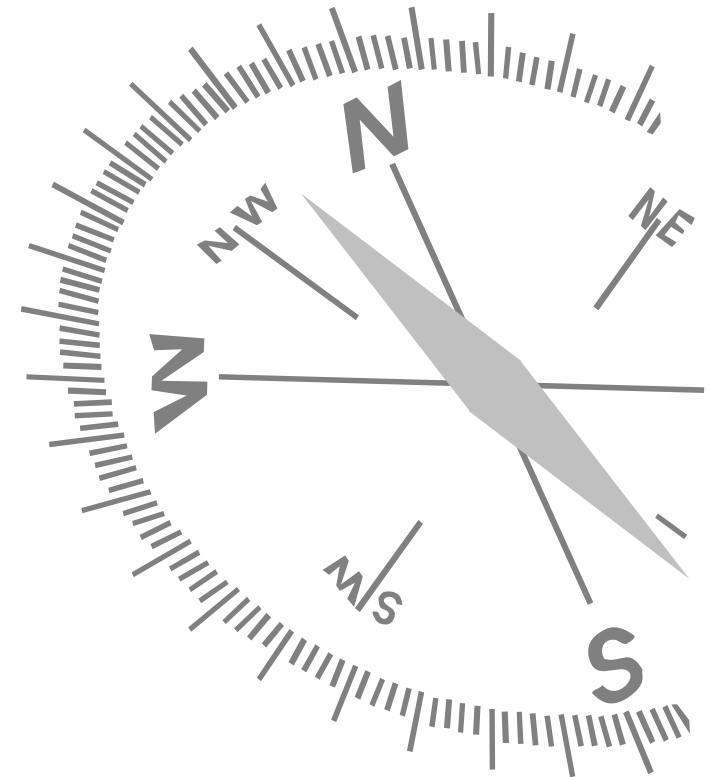
- A ship with autonomous (**Smart**) technologies is navigating and making evasive maneuvers based on an automated software system. **An autonomous ship does not have to be unmanned.**
- An unmanned ship is a ship with no humans onboard. **An unmanned ship does not have to be autonomous; it can be under autonomous control but it can also be under remote control.**

Porathe, T. (2013)

## Navigator

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- ➔ Unmanned Vehicles – Land & Air
- Visions
- Key tasks & potential solutions
- Changes to work and competencies
- Consequences for HRM
- Discussion



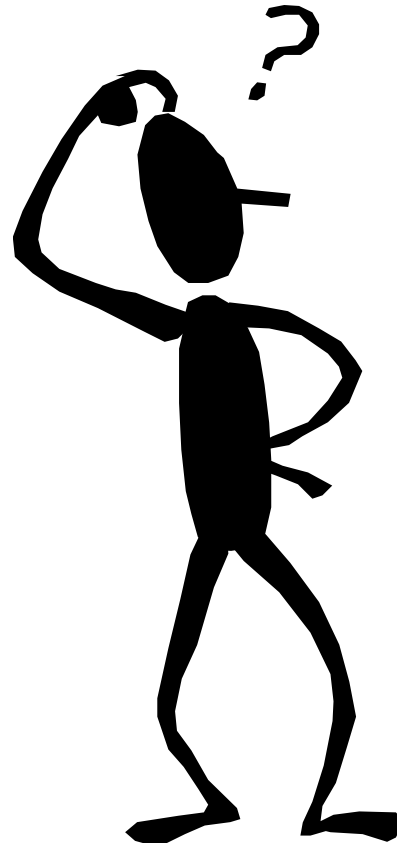
## Drones on land

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## What about an “unmanned ship”?

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## Navigator

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Unmanned Vehicles – Land & Air

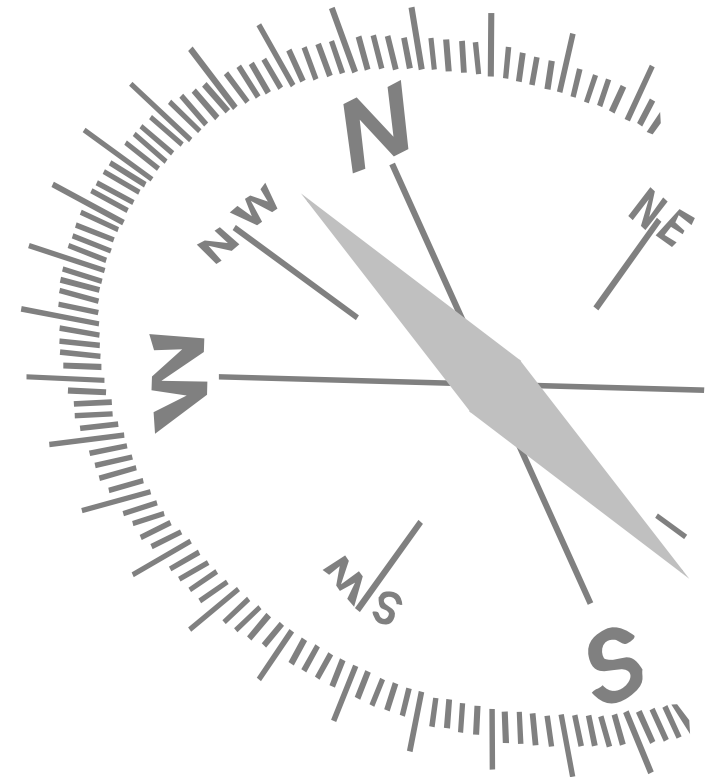
➔ Visions

Key tasks & potential solutions

Changes to work and competencies

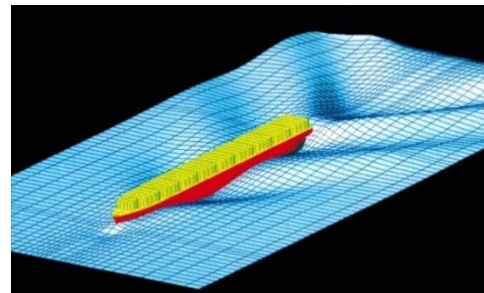
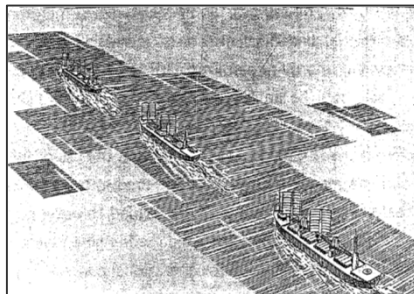
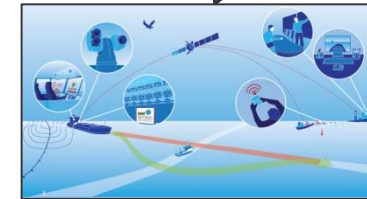
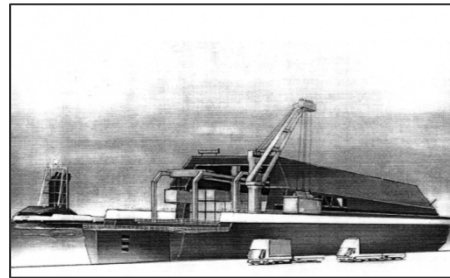
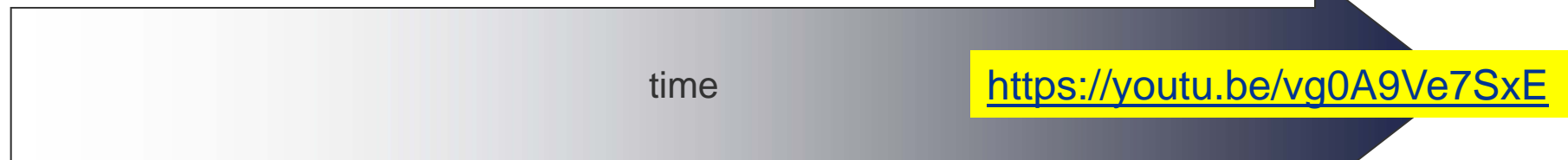
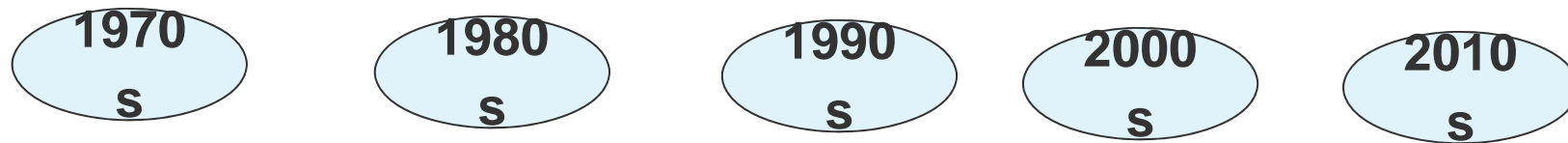
Consequences for HRM

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# No shortage of visions for unmanned ships





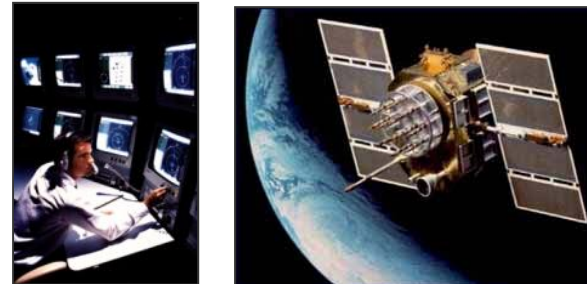
## Autonomy and remote control usually combined

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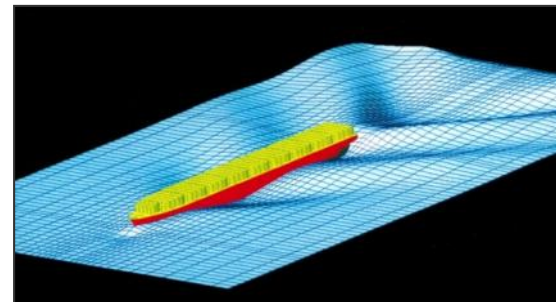
Line-of sight remote control



Satellite remote control



Onboard autonomy



## What is already feasible?

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## Navigator

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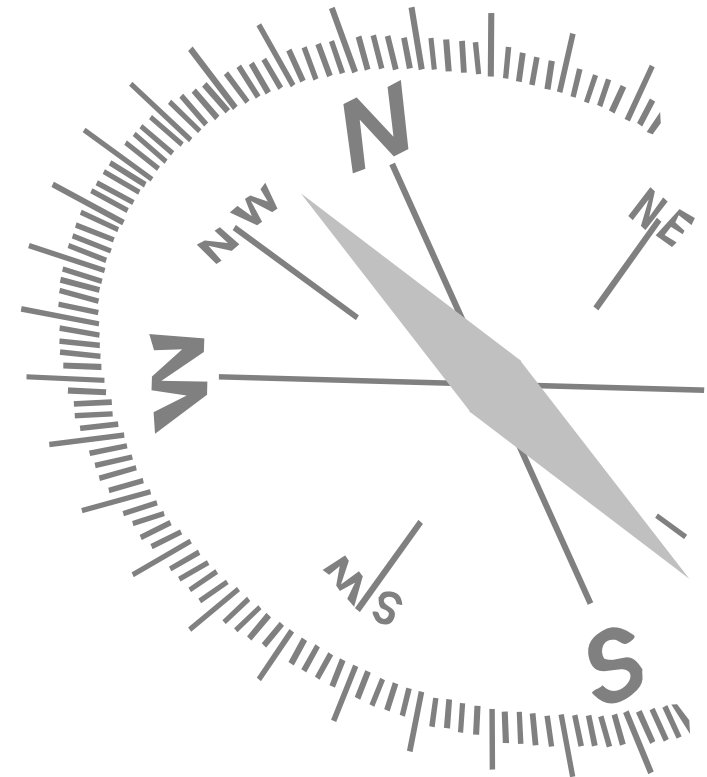
Unmanned Vehicles – Land & Air  
Visions

➔ Key tasks & potential solutions

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## Collision avoidance – Hurdles & solutions

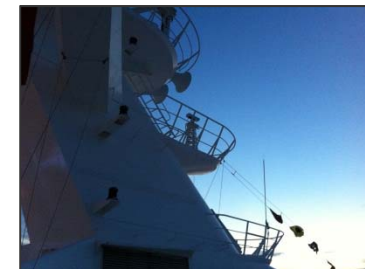
Radar shortcomings:

- **Ship type** (required for COLREGs)
- **Plastic / wood / ice / drifting containers**



Possible solutions:

- Use LADAR for detection
- Use transponders for detection
- Use automatic identification
- Use ECDIS + iceberg tracking
- Use remote human vision and machine

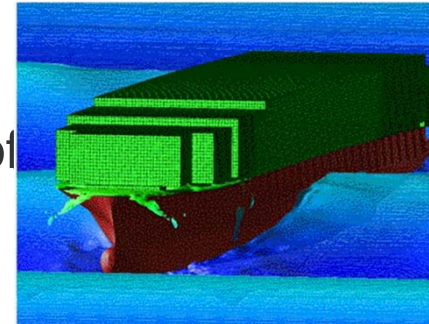




### Avoid excessive loads

Substitute human “feel” by sensors & software

- Ship acceleration sensors
- Strain gauges
- Short-term routing software



### Route planning

Already frequently performed on-shore

Both strategic & operational planning features





## Berthing – “Normal” ships requiring tug assistance

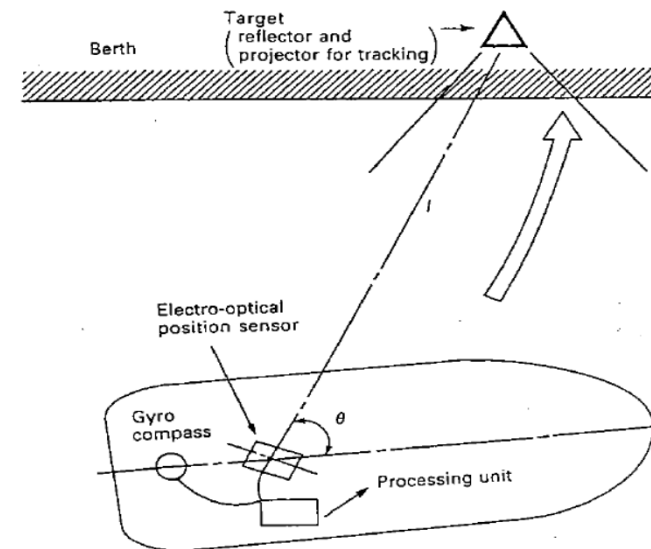
- Remote control (successful simulations in Japan (1990))
- Automatic **tug connection** via tug lines (successful sea trials in 2013)
- RAmora – unmanned tug (2016)





## Berthing – Highly manoeuvrable ships

- Lidar (electro-optical system)  
successful field test in Japan (1999)
- DGPS
- DP technology for control strategy



DP = Dynamic Positioning

DGPS = Differential GPS





## Mooring & Anchoring

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### Automatic **anchor handling**

- simulations in 1980s in Japan

### Automatic **mooring**

- Magnetic systems (already used)
- Suction systems





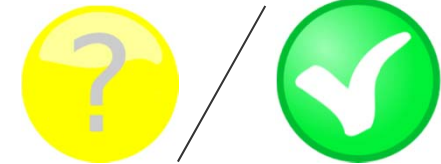
Moving towards “paperless” document handling:

- Automated **electronic report** making & transmission



Driven by general logistics industry

“Just” needs to be implemented in practice



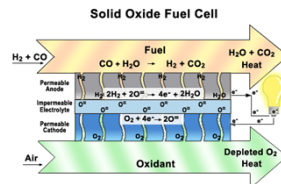
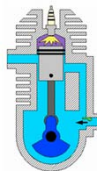
Machinery requires care:

- Maintenance (lubrication, filters, ...)
- Repairs

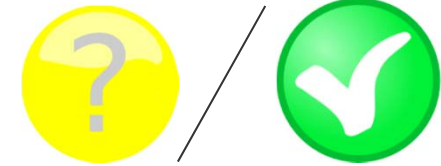


**Classical “show-stopper”** for unmanned ships

Low-emission paradigm change makes things easier



- Fuel cells using LNG as fuel 2018 onwards
- Redundancy of electric propulsion
- Fault diagnosis by expert systems through sensors
- Condition based maintenance



## Fire & Co.

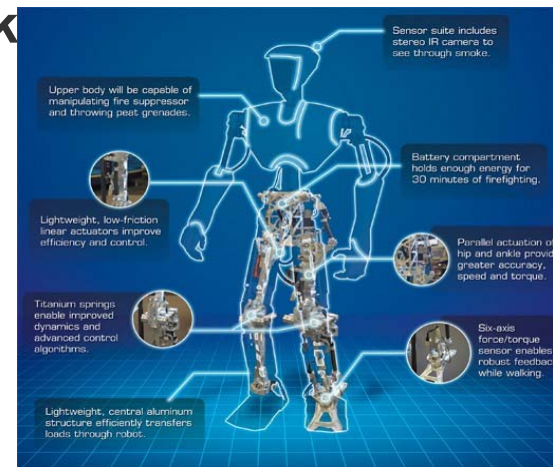
- Respond quickly
- Keep calm

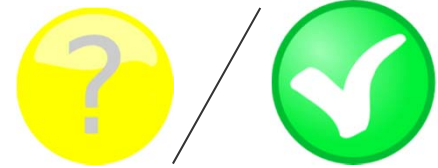
Expert systems exist



Robots better for **dangerous tasks**

- Smart sprinkler systems
- Fire-fighting mobile robots





- All on-board systems efficiently linked with each other
- Automatic data exchange with other ships and with shore stations
- Automatic subsystems, external communication, and sensors will create a flood of data to be screened and condensed, filtering unnecessary data before passing it on to the main operating system



## Smart Ship Scenario: Tanker which is still manned

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- Crew of 4 to 6
- Operator eye tracking software for fatigue detection
- Ladar object, obstacle and range detection through scanners at bow and stern,
- Automatic ship type identification based on wide-angle cameras
- Ship-specific hydrodynamic CFD-based knowledge base, (trim optimization, weather routing and manoeuvring)
- Autonomous collision avoidance route planning: Sensors provide a clearer “map” of the ships environment. Expert systems, plan and offer updated collision avoidance routes.
- Fail safe autonomous collision avoidance: **If the crew does not respond to alarms, the bridge initiates an avoidance manoeuvre autonomously .**

### Obstacles for realisation:

Economics and Maritime Regulations (e.g. allowed level of autonomy in IMO Conventions:

**But: IMO lawyers working group is at work to assess**

## Unmanned Ship Scenario: Container feeder with electric propulsion for Norwegian short sea shipping

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- ❑ Navigates without human interference **on designated routes**.
- ❑ Supervised by a shore-based control centre that can take control
- ❑ Automatic communication with VTS and other traffic,
- ❑ Dynamic positioning (DP) capability (can go into DP mode as a fail-safe measure in case of emergency.)
- ❑ Collision-avoidance autonomy in navigation.
- ❑ All maintenance work delegated to shore
- ❑ Automatic berthing systems
- ❑ Autonomous cargo handling systems in port for rapid turn-around times
- ❑ Recharge batteries during port



## Navigator

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Unmanned Vehicles – Land & Air

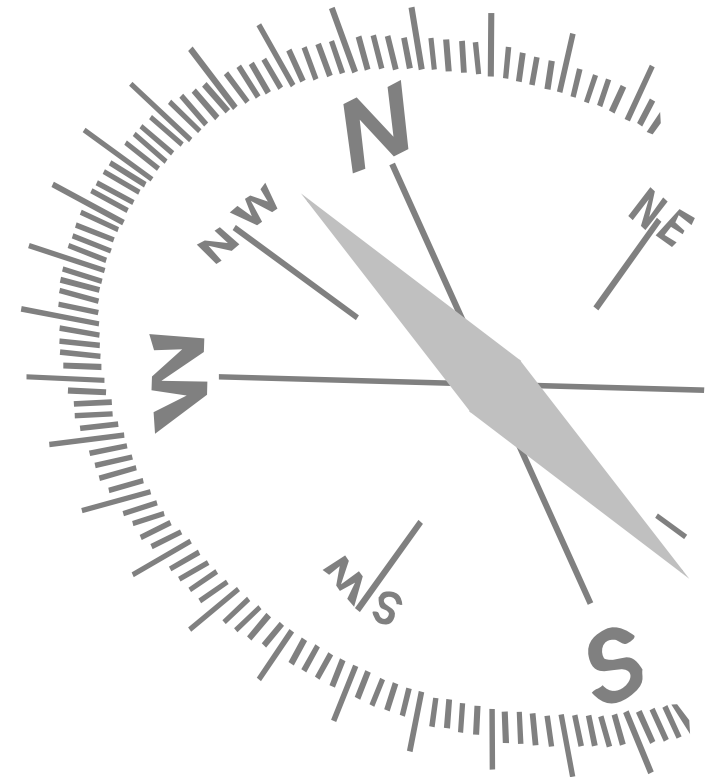
Visions

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➔ Changes to work and competencies

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## Changes to work and competencies **aboard manned ships with smart autonomous technology** – A sociological assessment

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### □ Nautical Officers

- Transition from analysing system operators **to operate within the system of expert and support systems**
  - Potentially fewer sources of information through pre-processing expert systems
  - Less chances to critically evaluate the solutions provided by the expert systems (Black-Box)
  - **Willingness to take responsibilities for decisions taken by machines**

□ Still high emergency competence required

□ How to motivate themselves and stay alert?

□ Higher social competence required-communication/conflict/coping with isolation

## Changes to work and competencies **aboard manned ships with smart autonomous technology** – A sociological assessment, cont.

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### □ Engineer Officers

- May become “Mechanics”:
  - **Expropriated comprehensive system knowledge**
  - **Substituted by augmented reality** through integrated expert systems or shore-based experts providing real-time support

### □ Deck and engine ratings

- May disappear
  - port and maintenance jobs delegated ashore,
  - cargo supervision by systems

## Changes to work and competencies **aboard unmanned ships** – A sociological assessment

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### □ Nautical Officers

- Needed ashore only
  - **How to gain the seagoing and ship handling experience needed to evaluate the situation of a vessel in demanding circumstances (severe weather conditions, approaching rivers and ports, emergencies?)**

### □ Engineer Officers

- Needed ashore only
- May become “Service Technicians” who board the vessel in port only
- **Condition based maintenance**
- Either with comprehensive system knowledge and understanding or again not in depths knowledge

## Navigator

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Unmanned Vehicles – Land & Air

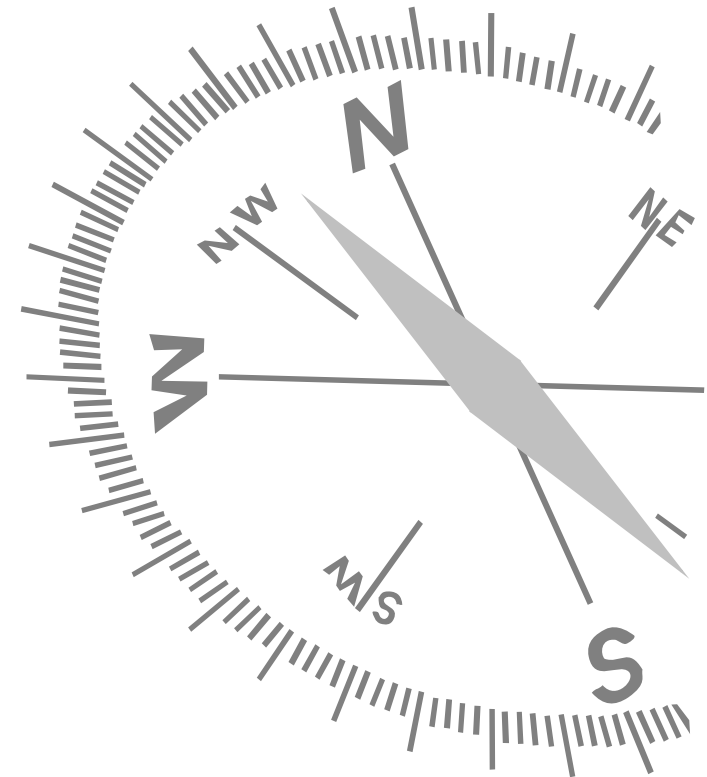
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## Definitions

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- **Human Resource Management (HRM) =**
  - Crew size/safe manning
  - Competence requirements and competence management
  - Hiring process and retention

## Crew size/safe manning

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- Possible reduction to 4 to 6 persons aboard
- Possibly no more AB Deck or Engine
- Relatively low manning costs compared to other operation costs – shorter tours of duty?
- Rethinking crew compilation: Single nationality crews again?



## Competence requirements – definition and competence management

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- **Formal qualification**
  - Integrated system operators (nautical) and mechanics (engine)?
  - Clearly defined competencies mapped and controlled
- **Knowledge**
  - Clearer defined
- **Experience**
  - Clearer defined but how to gain? On special training ships?
- **Attitude/social competence**
  - Clearer defined and more attention (aviation industry)?

## Hiring process and retention

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- More efforts and attention - defined competencies due to individual technological vessel layouts
- Closer management and control of crewing agencies (if any...)
- Individual technological vessel layouts support drive to retain people
- Constant monitoring of competencies and closing of gaps through training and planned experience – thus higher costs/investments per person

## Navigator

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Unmanned Vehicles – Land & Air

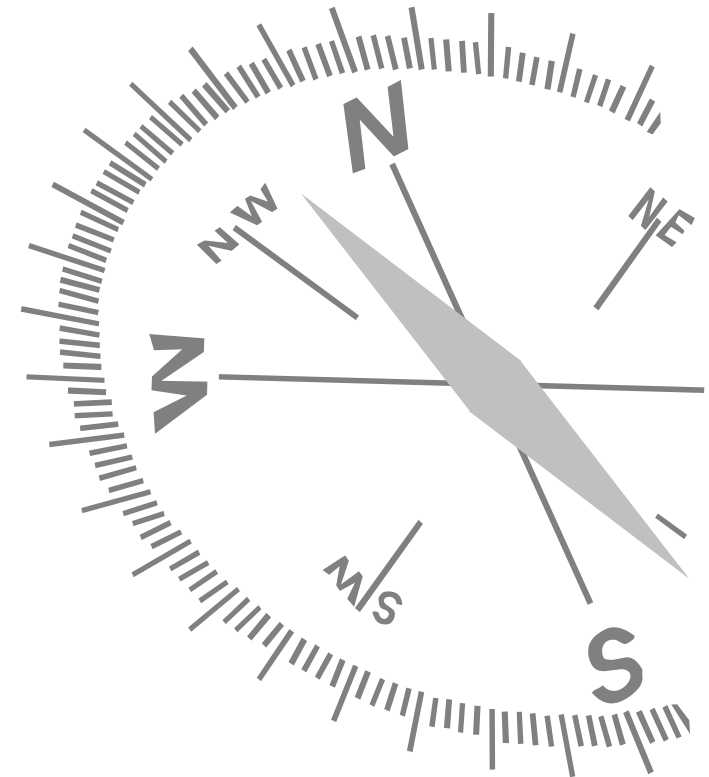
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# Thank you for your attention!

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