

PRACTICAL DECARBONISATION ACTIONS IN SHIPPING

Professor Ulla Tapaninen, Dr Tech, maritime transport Estonian Maritime Academy Tallinn University of Technology



25.11.2025

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Introduction

Background of maritime decarbonisation

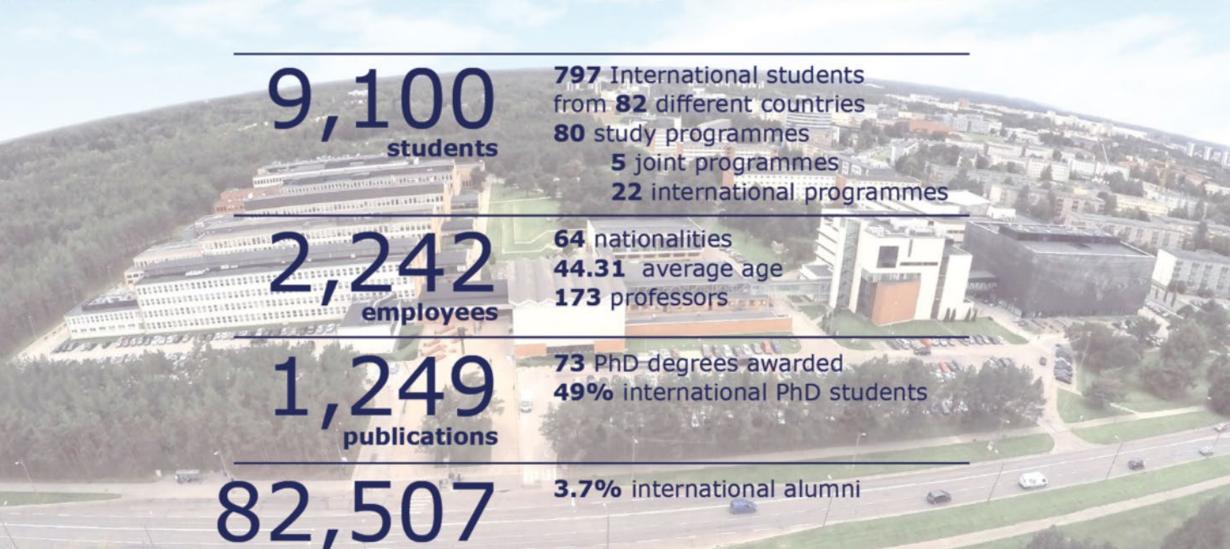
Operational actions of shipping companies for the decarbonisation

Actions of shippers for decarbonisation

Future fuel



TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY 2024



Statistics 2024

TALTECH ESTONIAN MARITIME ACADEMY

Only higher education institution in Estonia offering maritime higher education, training and carrying out research

Research areas:

Maritime Transport

Maritime Cybersecurity

Blue Economy and Aquatic Resources

Green Maritime Technology

Waterway Safety Management

Nautical Sciences, Safety, Security and Navigation

International Maritime Law and Regulations

In numbers:

- 105 years experience
- 7000 alumni (since 2000)
- 480 students incl 25 PhD students
- 90 employees
- 8 professors + 22 researchers
- Budget 6,5 milj euros

Study programs:



Doctoral studies: Main Speciality "Maritime" in Engineering

Master studies: Maritime, Maritime Digitalization

Bachelor studies: Navigation, Ship Engineering, Port and Shipping Management, Waterway Safety Management



ULLA TAPANINEN





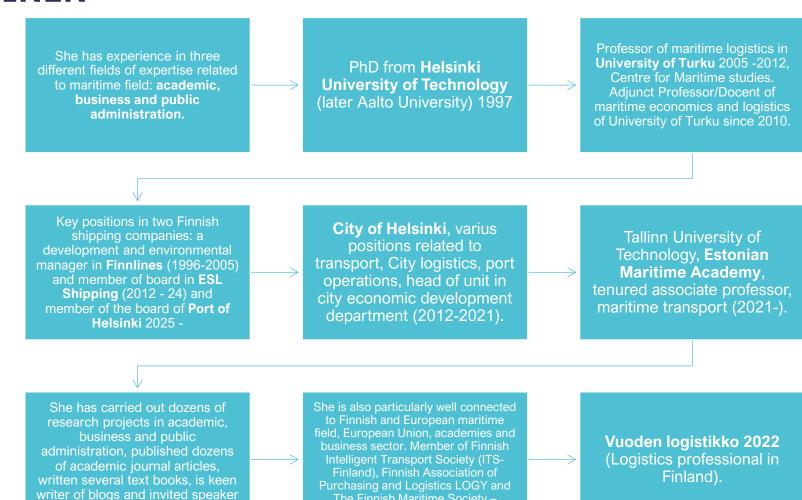
Meriturvallisuuden ja -liikenteen tutkimuskeskus Kotka Maritime Research Centre

in seminars.







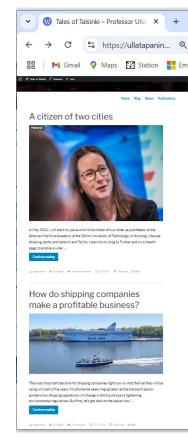


Full tenured professor *Ulla Pirita Tapaninen* Book: Maritime Transports 2020, Kogan Page

The Finnish Maritime Society -

Meriliitto.

Blog: ullatapaninen.net





MARITIME TRANSPORT RESEARCH GROUP ESTONIAN MARITIME ACADEMY



Smart and Energy Efficient Environments (business studies)

How tightening environmental regulations affect shipping companies, ports and maritime markets? The studies analyse the present shipping business, and study how the new fuels, vessel design and operative changes will affect the shipping business models and operations.

Maritime and Port Governance (social sciences)

The functioning and competitiveness of maritime cluster: shipping companies, port and maritime sectors in various shipping market situations: cargo and passenger volumes, economics, policies, law and public opinion.

9 Ph.D students, 3 post-docs, 2 adj. prof., 3 assistants 5 large international projects (Horizon + CB)

Full tenured professor *Ulla Pirita Tapaninen*Book: *Maritime Transports 2020, Kogan Page*Blog: *ullatapaninen.net*



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WE HAVE A MISSION!

"In the next 20 years the maritime industry must rebuild its cargo fleet. If this is done with the radical technologies now available, it will lead to the biggest change in ship design since steam replaced sail in the 19th century."



Coronavirus, Climate Change & Smart Shipping
THREE MARITIME SCENARIOS
2020 – 2050



IMO WEB ACCOUNTS

PUBLICATIONS

KNOWLEDGE CENTRE N

Levels of ambition directing the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy are as follows:

.1 carbon intensity of the ship to decline through further improvement of the energy efficiency for new ships

to review with the aim of strengthening the energy efficiency design requirements for ships

.2 carbon intensity of international shipping to decline

to reduce CO2 emissions per transport work, as an average across international shipping, by at least 40% by 2030,compared to 2008;

.3 uptake of zero or near-zero GHG emission technologies, fuels and/or energy sources to increase

uptake of zero or near-zero GHG emission technologies, fuels and/or energy sources to represent at least 5% striving for 10% of the energy used by international shipping by 2030; and

.4 GHG emissions from international shipping to reach net zero

to peak GHG emissions from international shipping as soon as possible and to reach net-zero GHG emissions by or around, i.e. close to, 2050, taking into account different national circumstances, whilst pursuing efforts towards phasing them out as called for in the Vision consistent with the long-term temperature goal set out in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement.



IMO REGULATIONS





Alternative fuels

Sructure and guidance:

- EEDI
- EEXI
- SEEMP

Operations:

- CII

Adoption of short-term measures (EEXI, CII) to reduce carbon intensity of all ships by 40% by 2030, compared to 2008

Aggregated results of the 2019 fuel consumption data collection system (DCS) published for MEPC 76 (March 2021)

Initiate consideration of mid-term measures under Phase I of the Workplan (October-November 2021)

of assessment of impacts on States of candidate GHG measures (October-November 2021)

Further consideration

EEDI phase 3 in effect for certain ship types with up to 50% carbon intensity reduction for new build large containerships

EEXI survey requirements take effect (November 2022)

> Carbon intensity measures enter into effect

Revision of the IMO Initial GHG Strategy

Start of carbon intensity data (CII) collection under the short-term measure

IMO Initial GHG Strategy objective of 40% reduction of CO₂ emissions per transport work compared to 2008,

as an average across international shipping

objectives of 50% reduction of the total annual GHG emissions and 70% reduction of CO2 emissions per transport work compared to 2008 whilst pursuing efforts towards phasing them out - as a point on a pathway of CO₂ emissions reduction consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature goals

IMO Initial GHG Strategy

2021

2023

2024

2025

2030

2050

2022

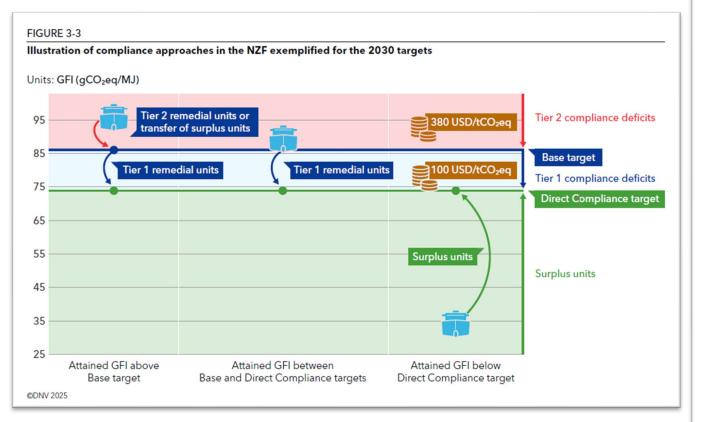
EEDI phase 3 in effect

- up to 30% reduction

in carbon intensity for

newbuild ship

IMO TARGET BASED MEASURES





IMO fails to agree Net-Zero Framework, pushes talks to 2026



Negotiations at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) have broken down without agreement on the Net-Zero Framework, leaving the shipping industry facing another year of uncertainty over how its decarbonisation will be regulated.



European Green Deal: Commission proposes transformation of EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions

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Print friendly pdf

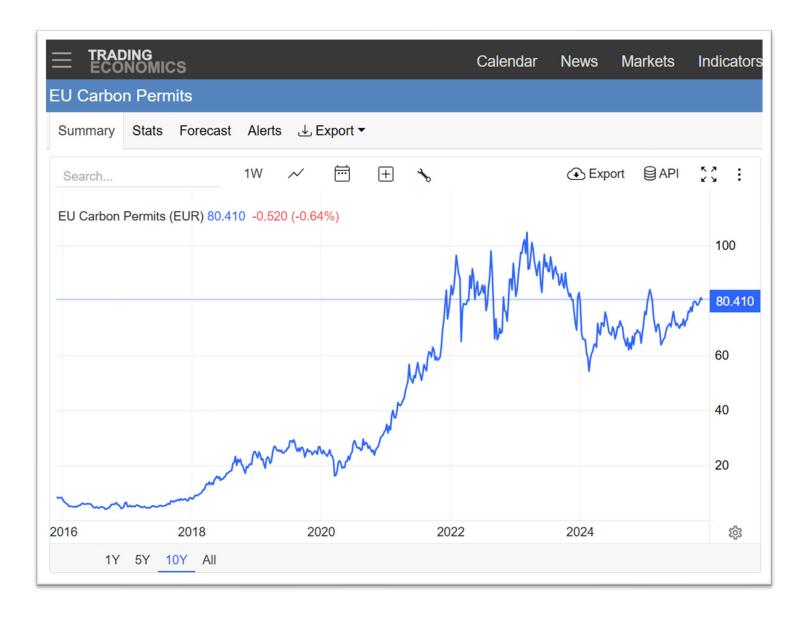
Related media

Press contact

Today, the European Commission adopted a package of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Achieving these emission reductions in the next decade is crucial to Europe becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and making the European Green Deal a reality. With today's proposals, the Commission is presenting the legislative tools to deliver on the targets agreed in the European Climate Law and fundamentally transform our economy and society for a fair, green and prosperous future.

EU: FIT FOR 55

- 1. FuelEU Maritime, carbon intensity of fuels
- 2. EU ETS, Emission trading system
- 3. ETCD Energy Taxation Directive
- 4. (AFIR)- Shore-side electricity





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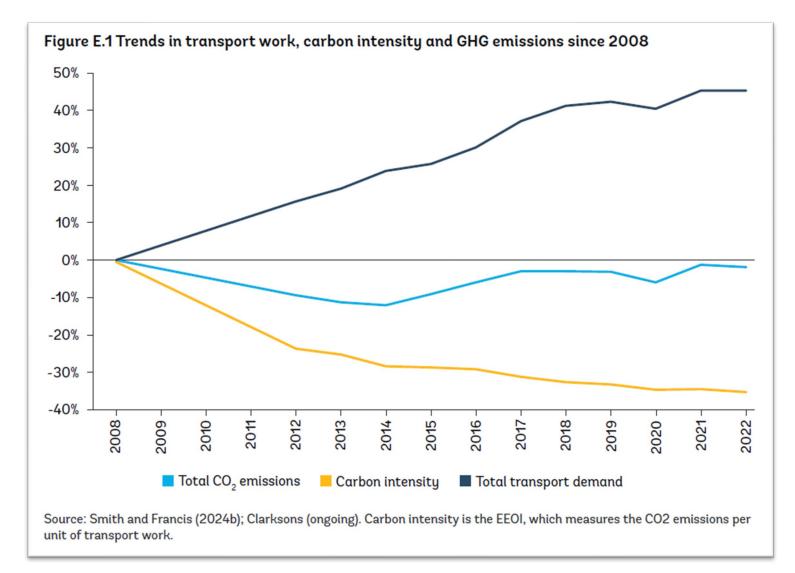
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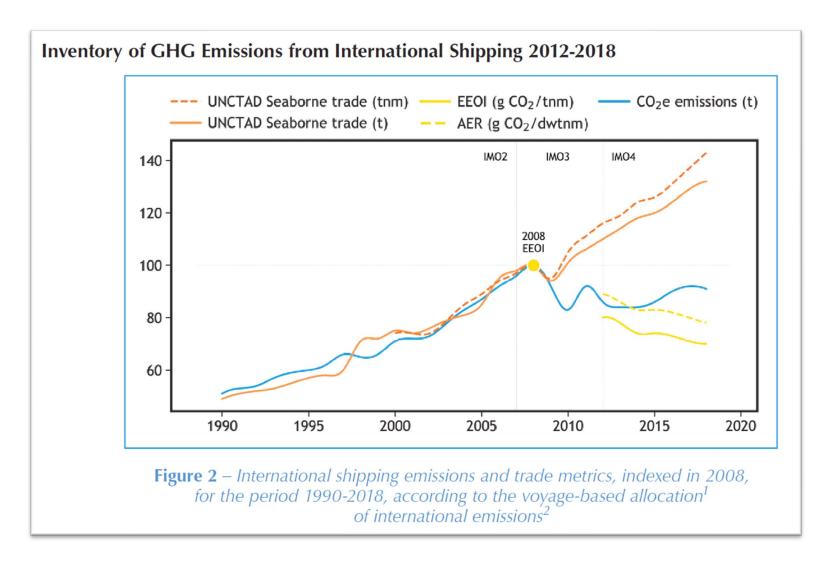


TRENDS IN TRANSPORT WORK AND GHG EMISSIONS 2008





SHIPPING EMISSIONS

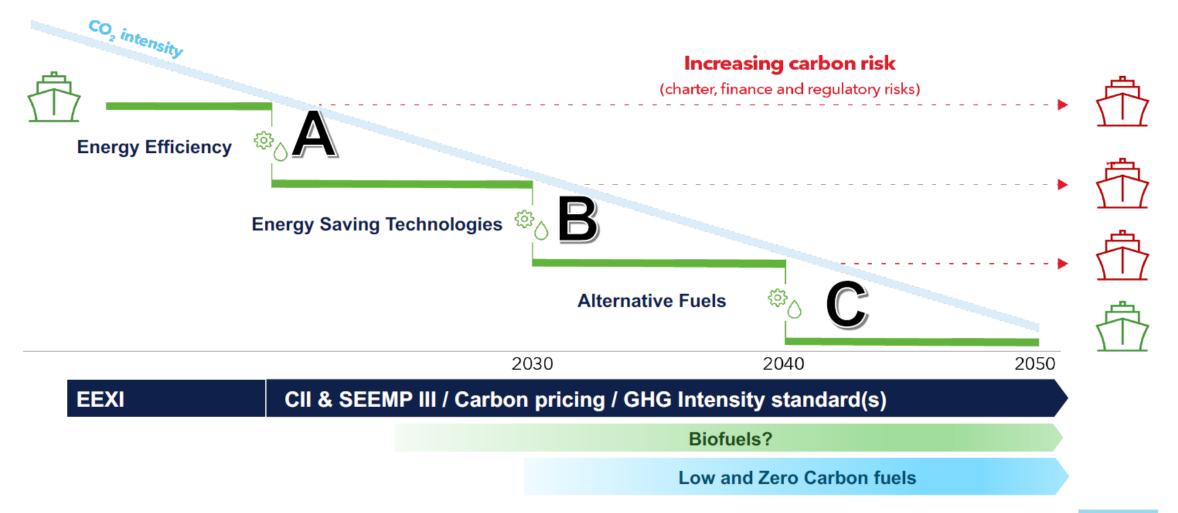




Source: Fourth IMO GHG Study 2020



Develop your future readiness – as a muscle





SHIP ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Type of cargo ship	Efficiency improvements of new ships relative to the	Share of ships built in 2013–2017 already complying		
	baseline EEDI value of 2013.	with the post-2025 EEDI target.		
Containerships	58% more efficient	71% of built containerships		
General cargo ships	57% more efficient	69% of built general cargo ships		
Gas carriers	42% more efficient	13% of built gas carriers		
Oil Tankers	35% more efficient	26% of built oil tankers		
Bulk Carriers	27% more efficient	1% of built Bulk Carriers		

Type of modification employed	Description of the method	Type of ship examined	Impact	Source
Modification of hull parameters	Restoring historical adimensional design parameters like block coefficient.	Tankers and bulk carriers of all sizes.	The EEDI values are reduced between 10 and 15% in the fleets examined.	(Kristensen and Lützen, 2012)
	Reduction of main ship dimensions like length and beam	Panamax tankers with influence of bulk carriers.	The EEDI values diminish between 2.5% and 0.7% per meter subtracted.	(Lützen and Kristensen, 2012)
Propulsion system optimization	Innovative propulsion methods like the Organic Rankine Cycle	LNG carriers.	The EEDI diminishes up to 0.3 below the reference case in the best systems.	(El Geneidy, 2018)
	Electric propulsion systems.	Passenger vessels.	Both structures examined comply with phase 3, but the COGES system has greater margin of error.	(Ammar and Seddiek, 2021)
	Specific LNG carrier propulsion	LNG carriers exclusively.	Of the systems examined, only the diesel electric complies with phase 3, but with a heavy methane slip.	(Attah and Bucknall, 2015)
Hybrid propulsion systems	Hybrid systems on general cargo carriers	Small and fast general cargo carriers.	Two of the investigated cases comply even with the strictest phase of the EEDI.	Table 9 Operational measures.
	Fleets of hybrid systems	Ro-Ro and Passenger ships.	Both types of systems examined have EEDI values below the reference of the ship.	Type of modification
Alternative fuel sources	Varied array of alternative technologies like shaft generators.	Very large crude carrier.	The combined effects of innovative technologies produces a drop in the EEDI of up to 0.34, around 16%.	employed Slow steaming
	Propulsion for Liquid hydrogen tankers.	Liquid hydrogen tankers exclusively.	The optimal system analysed was a steam turbine with a hydrogen boiler and complies even with phase 3 of the EEDI.	

Description of the method Type of ship examined Impact Source Reduction of travel speed. Bulk carriers, tankers, and For a speed reduction of 5%, bulk-carriers and tankers have (Hochkirch and containerships fuel savings of 13% and containerships of 16-19% Bertram, 2010)

The coordination of the auxiliary systems reduces the ${\rm CO}_2$

Both fuel consumption and emissions can be reduced by

about 28% in ideal cases, saving around 2961 kg/trip.

The highest reduction in resistance was almost 14%,

depending on the draft and the speed.

emissions by 948 t/year and fuel consumption by 296.2 tons

(Dere and Deniz,

(Wang, 2018)

(Moustafa et al.,

2019)

2015)



Source: Julio Barreiro, Sonia Zaragoza, Vicente Diaz-Casas, 2022, Review of ship energy efficiency, Ocean Engineering, 257, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oceaneng.2022.111594.

Containership

Bulk carriers

Inland Cruise ship but is specifically

noted to work on different ships.

Auxiliary system compliance to slow

Optimal speed under

varying sea conditions.

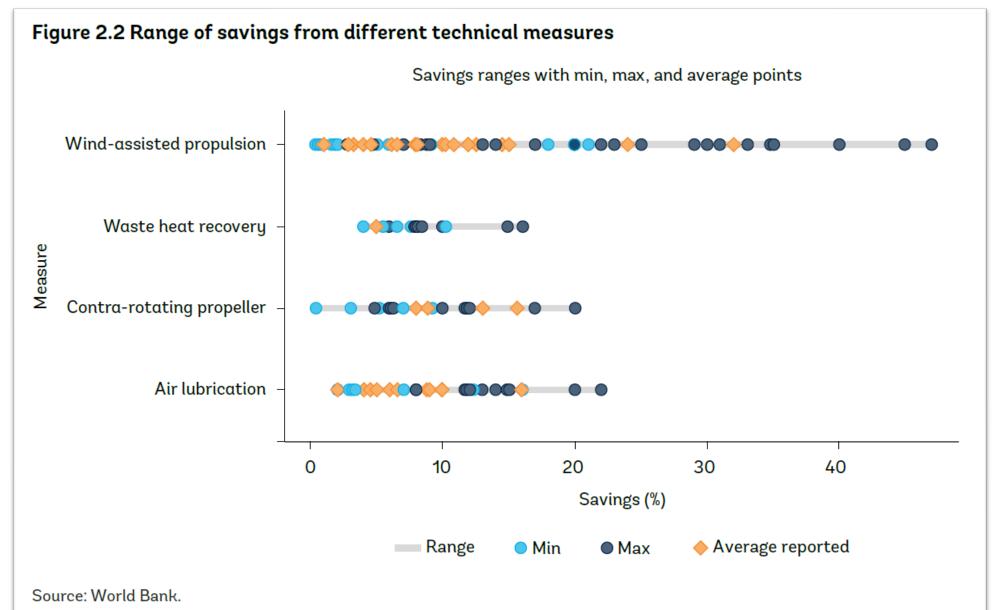
steaming.

Optimal trim

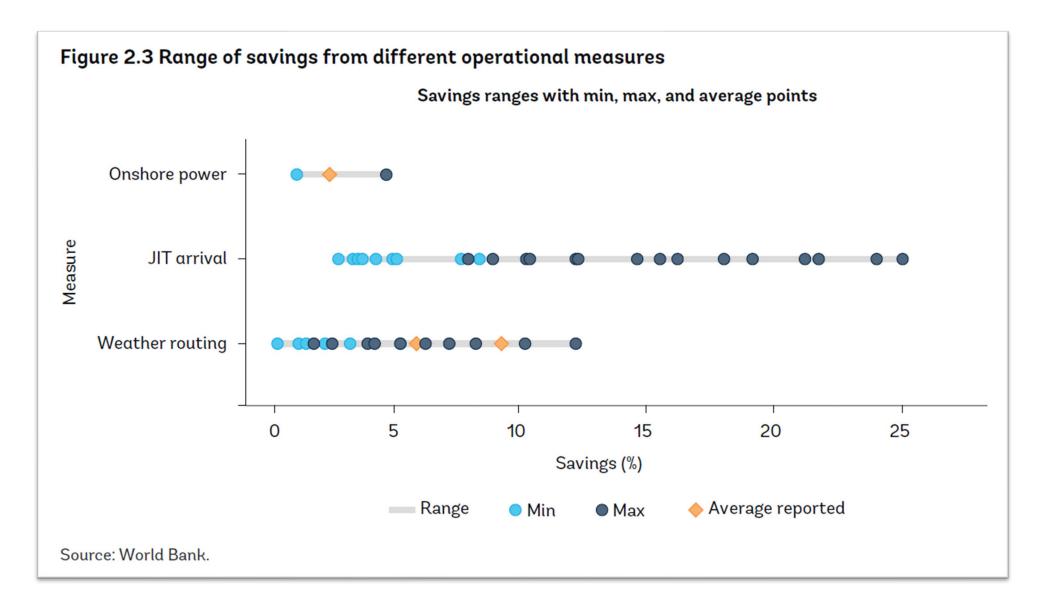
configuration.

Route optimization

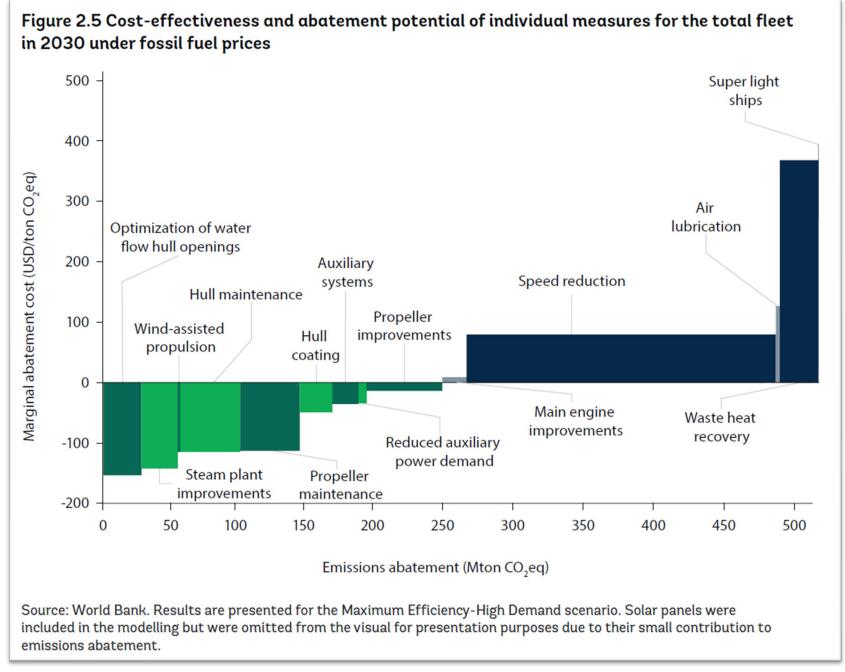
Trim optimization





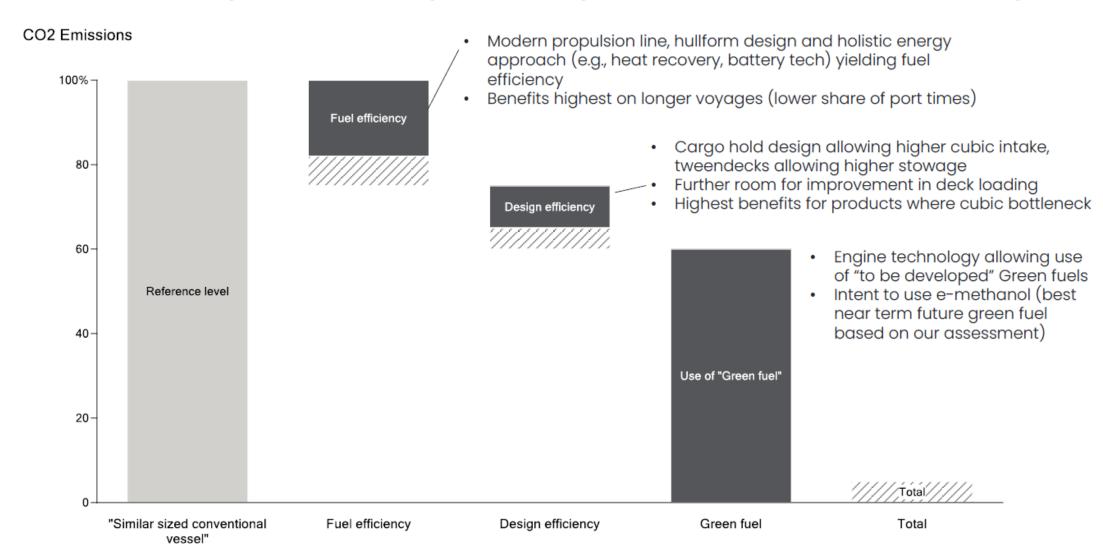








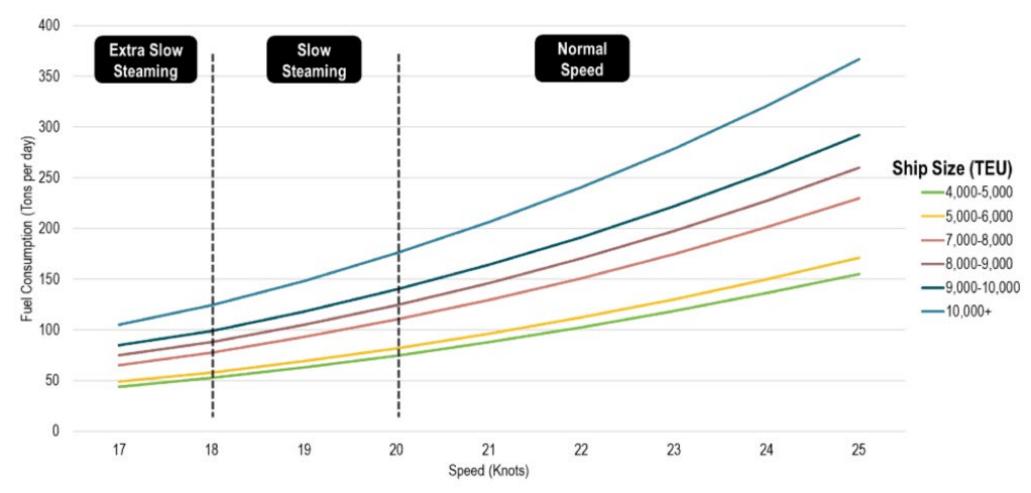
ESL Green Shipping concept brings GHG efficiency in variety of ways – illustrative example







Fuel Consumption by Containership Size and Speed





The Geography of Transport Systems Jean-Paul Rodrigue (2020)

AUTOMOORING SYSTEM IN HELSINKI AND TALLINN

Tallinn's Old City Harbour to introduce automated mooring system

Port of Tallinn has signed contracts with maritime engineering companies
Trelleborg and Cavotec for the instalment of automated mooring systems at quays
5, 12 and 13 of the Old City Harbour, which is used by passenger vessels serving
the Tallinn-Helsinki route.

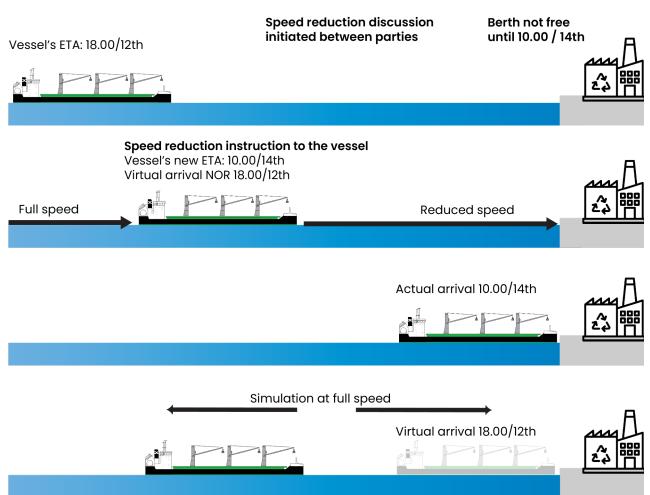
According to Peeter Nõgu, head of the infrastructure development division of Port of Tallinn, technological development has greatly contributed to the maritime sector, including the mooring processes of ships. "The new automated mooring equipment installed in the Old City Harbour will fasten our mooring operations while also requiring less man-hours and contributing to environmental sustainability. The new systems are primarily used by the ships sailing on our busiest route between Tallinn and Helsinki, where every extra minute saved either at sea or in port is highly valued."

The shipping industry uses either automated vacuum mooring or automated magnetic mooring systems. According to Peeter Nõgu, Port of Tallinn opted for a vacuum-pad based system, while the magnetic mooring systems are still at an early stage of development and usage. For this reason, the full impact of the electromagnetic waves on either a ship's electronics or the surrounding environment isn't yet fully known.





VIRTUAL ARRIVAL



Benefits of Virtual arrival

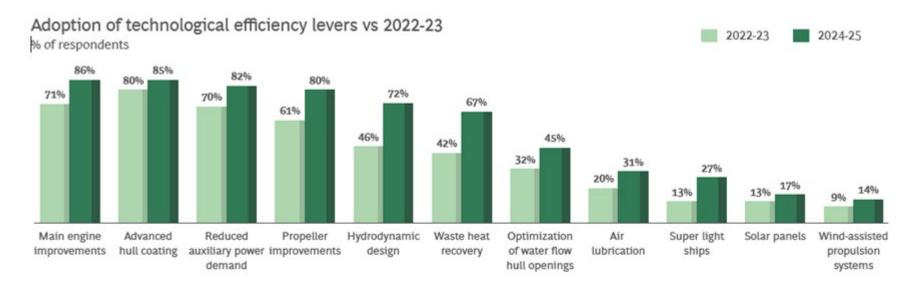
- reduced energy consumption
- reduced emissions
- less congestion in the port and anchorage area
- more reliable scheduling and line-up of vessels in port
- more efficient resource planning for port operators
- savings are shared between owners and charterer

-24%

Average reduction of CO₂-emissions

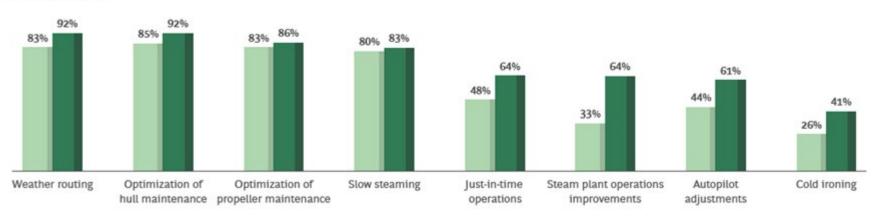


Exhibit E1 - Adoption of efficiency levers has increased compared to 2022-23



Adoption of operational efficiency levers vs 2022-23

% of respondents





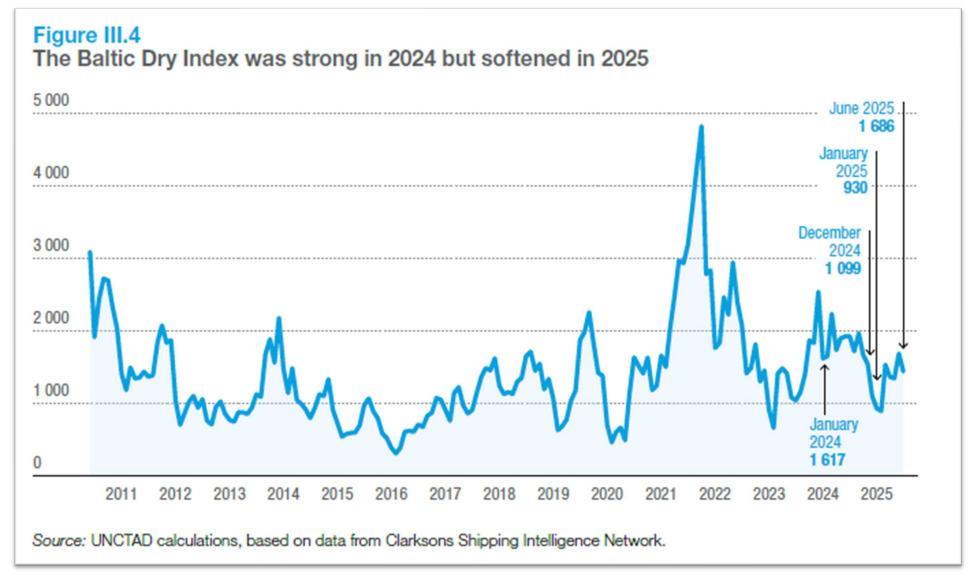
Note: N = 113 for 2024-25 survey; N = 128 for 2022-23 survey

SIX STEPS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY OF GOODS AND PEOPLE

- 1. Improve the energy efficiency in newbuildings.
- 2. Pilot various technical solutions to increase energy efficiency, e.g. rotor sails; smart IT- solutions to manage data for maintenance, bunker optimization and safety; air lubrication systems; use of batteries in ports and fairways; information for port arrivals, etc.
- 3. Reduce speed and improve port operations.
- 4. Be prepared for the new low or zero carbon fuels.
- 5. Shippers: evaluate alternative transport modes and operations.
- Regulators: introduce rules and support mechanisms and carbon taxes to help shipping industry to move towards carbonneutrality



BALTIC DRY INDEX 2011 - 2025





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Table 1: Emissions reported in MRV for different shipping segments

Ship type	Emissions	Emission per distance	Emissions per transport work		
	Mtonnes CO ₂	kg CO ₂ /NM	g CO ₂ / tonne-NM		
Bulk	18.1	290	8.48		
Container	44.4	570	20.13		
General cargo	6.13	185	28.02		
Oil Tanker	18.1	435	8.82		
Ro-ro	6.06		91.03		

Source: Mellin et al. 2020



Publication of information in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2015/757 on the monitoring, reporting and verification of CO₂ emissions from maritime transport. Information is accessible through the search tool or can be exported in a spreadsheet for further analysis. Since 30 June 2020, all the verified information submitted by companies to the European Commission for the reporting year 2019 is accessible.

It should be noted that 2021 is the first year for which THETIS-MRV data reflect the impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU (see notice to stakeholders)

It should be noted that 2021 is the first year for which THETIS-MRV data reflect the impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU (see notice to stakeholders)									
IMO Number		Ship Name	aurora botnia	∨ Reporting) Period	V	Ship type	V	
Search F	Reset								
IMO ↑	IMO ↑	Name	Ship Type	Technical efficiency		Reporting	Total CO ₂ emissions	CO ₂ emiss. per distance	CO ₂ emiss. per transp. work
	IPIO	Name	Simp Type	Туре	(gCO ₂ /t·nm)	Period	od [m tonnes]	[kg CO ₂ / n mile]	002 000000
Actions v	9878319	AURORA BOTNIA	Ro-pax ship	Not Applic		2023	12829.04	207.17	215.48 g CO ₂ / pax \cdot n miles 233.94 g CO ₂ / m tonnes \cdot n miles
Actions v	9878319	AURORA BOTNIA	Ro-pax ship	Not Applic		2022	16003.65	266.21	281.77 g CO ₂ / pax · n miles 267.68 g CO ₂ / m tonnes · n miles
	тмо Ф	Mana	Chin Tuna	Technical efficiency	ical efficiency	Reporting	Total CO ₂ emissions	CO ₂ emiss. per distance	CO ₂ emiss. per transp. work
	тмо ↑	Name	Ship Type	Туре	Type (gCO ₂ /t·nm)	Period	[m tonnes]	[kg CO ₂ / n mile]	
Actions v	9827877	VIKING GLORY	Ro-pax ship	EIV	3.5	2023	41315.32	347.19	61.46 g CO ₂ / pax \cdot n miles 210.75 g CO ₂ / m tonnes \cdot n miles
Actions v	9827877	VIKING GLORY	Ro-pax ship	EIV	3.5	2022	48797.78	460.36	71.48 g CO ₂ / pax · n miles 293.64 g CO ₂ / m tonnes · n miles
	ІМО ↑	Name	Ship Type	Technical efficiency		Reporting	Total CO ₂ emissions	CO ₂ emiss. per distance	CO ₂ emiss. per transp. work
	Ino	Hame	этр турс	Туре	(gCO ₂ /t·nm)	Period	[m tonnes]	[kg CO ₂ / n mile]	
Actions v	9892690	MYSTAR	Ro-pax ship	EIV	2.3	2023	53668.59	568.50	470.37 g CO $_2$ / pax \cdot n miles 110.16 g CO $_2$ / m tonnes \cdot n miles
Actions v	9892690	MYSTAR	Ro-pax ship	EIV	2.3	2022	3633.88	797.74	583.81 g CO ₂ / pax · n miles 137.82 g CO ₂ / m tonnes · n miles

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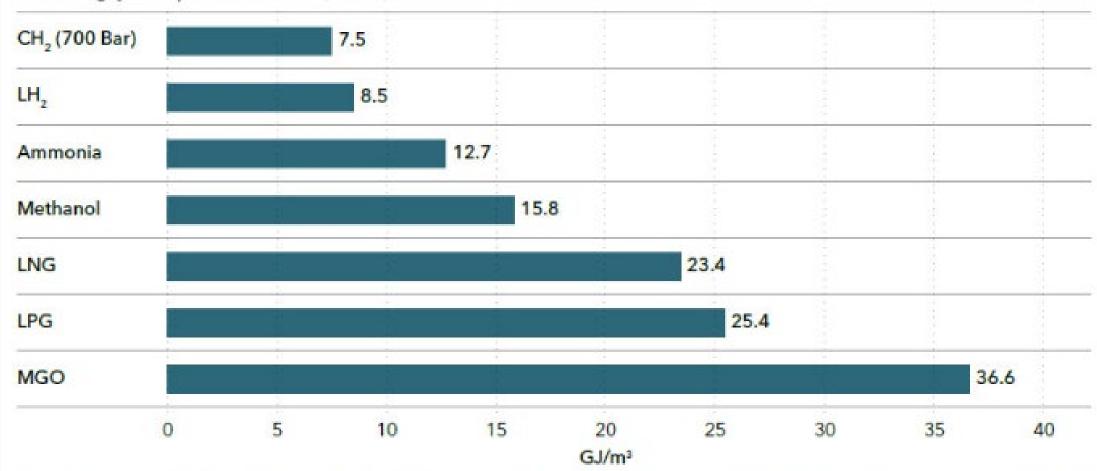
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Volumetric energy density of alternative fuels

Units: Gigajoules per cubic metre (GJ/m³)

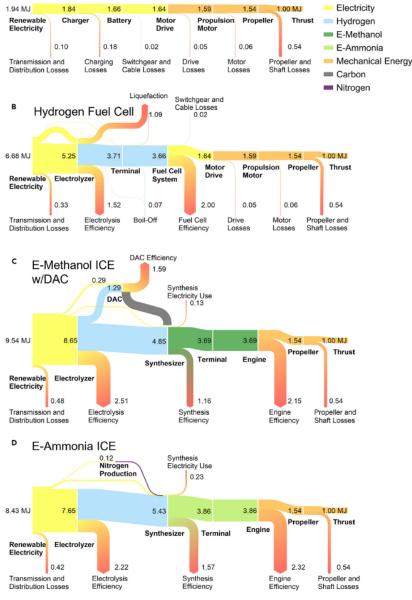


Key: Compressed hydrogen (CH₂); liquefied hydrogen (LH₂); liquefied natural gas (LNG); liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); marine gas oil (MGO)



Source: DNV

ENERGY





Battery Electric

Sankey diagrams illustrating the renewable electricity input needed to provide 1 MJ of thrust for the following powertrain options: (A) battery electric, (B) liquid hydrogen fuel cell, (C) internal combustion engine running on e-methanol including direct air capture (DAC) of CO₂, and (D) internal combustion engine running on e-ammonia.

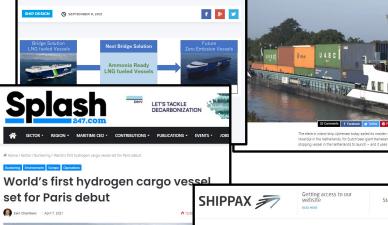


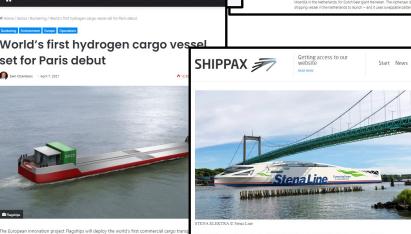
Industry Leaders Collaborate to Develop Ammonia Shipping Fuel Guidance





nergy Solutions, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, NYK Line, Total and the Mærsk



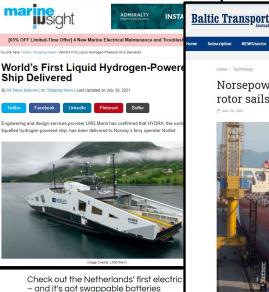


Stena's pathway to decarbonise its shipping operations

The scale of shipping's challenge to transition from fossil-based fuels to renewables must not

e underestimated. We are a global industry, and ships must be able to serve all ports. There i

still no easy answer on which technology to use and vessels built today could operate for up







2,500 wins BV's AiP

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS & PROJECTS





Ulstein develops new concept for zero-emission vessel

Bill Gates joins nuclear-powered

shipping push







LET'S TACKLE DECARBONIZA

INTRODUCING THE NEXT

Partnership aims to develop hydrogen ferry for Oslo-Copenhagen

DFDS and its partners have applied for EU support for development of a ferry powered by electricity from a hydrogen fuel cell which only emits



World's First Zero-Emission Wind and Hydrogen Power Cargo Ship



with more than 31 ship owners bidding on the project, the contract for the construction has been awarded. The team expected to complete the design this

ear so that the vessel can enter service by 2024.

ANALYSIS OF 2 FERRIES WITH DIFFERENT ENERGY SYSTEM

Article



Figure 1. Ferry line route map







3

Decarbonizing City Water Traffic: Case of Comparing Electric and Diesel Powered Ferries

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- ² Tenured Associate Professor, Estonian Maritime Academy, Tallinn University of Technology, Kopli 101, 11712 Tallinn, Estonia; E-mail: ulla.tapaninen@taltech.ee
- * Correspondence: riina.otsason@taltech.ee

Abstract: The maritime sector is aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Shipping companies are therefore investigating efficient and optimal ways to minimize their greenhouse gas emissions. One of the measures is using vessels that operate on alternative non-carbon fuels. This study compares greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of a diesel fuelled catamaran and its fully electric sister vessel that operate on the same line. The study shows that the GHG emissions of the electric vessel are 14 only 25% of its diesel-powered sister vessel. However, this figure is highly dependent on the source 15 of electricity in the operating country. In this case, energy costs of the fully electric vessel were 31 % 16 cheaper than costs of diesel energy. The payback time without possible subsidy for replacing diesel ferry with electric one for the case would be 17 years and 6 months. We also show that even in 18 winter, when there is very low solar energy production, the additional energy from solar panels is sufficient to cover several options of applications or consumers. This study brings more insight to academic literature on decreasing maritime CO2 emissions of city water traffic. As managerial implications, it can be used when shipping companies evaluate options to reduce their emissions. The results of the study show that using fully electric vessels have major benefits concerning the carbon emissions but also financial advantages.

Keywords: carbon neutrality, GHG emission reduction, full electric ferry, diesel ferry

25

24

World's Largest Battery-Electric Ship Launched by Incat



China Zorrila will use the largest battery power system when it enters service in South America (Incat) PUBLISHED MAY 2, 2025 3:40 PM BY THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE



Incat is heralding a milestone in the shipping industry as it floated out the world's largest battery-electric ship which it says is also the largest electric vehicle of its kind ever built. The ferry *China Zorrilla* (approximately 14,000 gross tons) being built for Argentina-based Buquebus was floated from the building dock today at the Incat shipyard in Hobart, Tasmania in Australia.

Officially known as Hull 096 currently, the vessel is 130 meters (426 feet) in length and when completed will carry up to 2,100 passengers and 225 vehicles. It was originally ordered in 2019 and then billed simply as the largest aluminum ship and designed for service on the River Plate running between Argentina and Uruguay.

Discussions began between Incat and the shipowner and in 2023 they reported they were investigating the possibility of replacing the planned LNG powerplant with a battery-electric solution. The original concept called for four dual-fuel engines using LNG and providing a maximum speed of over 40 knots.



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Start / News / DFDS to Invest EUR 1 billion in battery electric ships for the Channel



DFDS to Invest EUR 1 billion in battery electric ships for the Channel

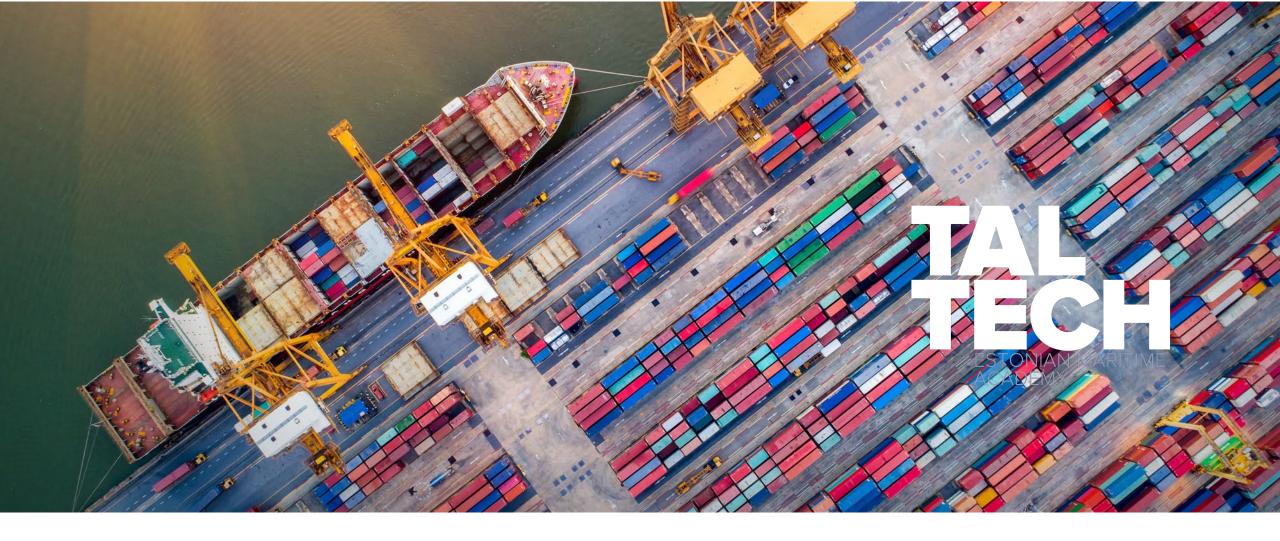
FERRY In the future, maritime traffic in the Channel will be electric. DFDS is announcing an expected EUR 1 billion investment in six battery electric ships that will be deployed on the Dunkirk-Dover and Calais-Dover routes to carry passengers and freight between the UK and the European Union.



Vaasa - Umeå Green Shipping Corridor - Wasaline

- First carbon-neutral shipping company in the Baltic Sea
- 2025: Carbon-neutral target achieved (5 years early)
- Partners:
 - Gasum (LBG),
 - Stena Line (FuelEU pooling),
 - DNV (certification)
 - Kvarken Ports (Vasa & Umeå)









Ulla.Tapaninen@taltech.ee

Blog: https://ullatapaninen.net/category/in-english/