

The EFFORTS Demonstration Event on Navigation in Ports in Hamburg was an Overwhelming Success

The morning of September 14th saw quite a few press and media representatives attended a very successful press briefing in the office of the Hamburg Port Authority.

The late afternoon saw them taking the opportunity together with navigational professionals to see the results of the EFFORTS sub project Navigation in Ports during life demonstrations on a harbour launch, cruising the port.

The following day, more than 80 port and maritime experts were briefed in detail about EFFORTS' work done and results achieved concerning Navigation in Ports.

The Press Conference



Eager expectations filled the room as press and media representatives awaited the opening of the EFFORTS press briefing. Maritime journalists, correspondents of foreign trade publications and the North German Television Channel were present.



Dieter Seefeldt of the Hamburg Port Authority gave a brief introduction to the work done and introduced the present EFFORTS team members. After several questions from the press concerning

the EFFORTS project in general and the results of this sub project in particular, the guests' attention quickly turned to the exhibited work results and the individual presenters.

Visual information was in great demand. HPA Hamburg Port Authority demonstrated the newly developed PortECDIS, MARIMATECH had a mock setup of their Portable Pilot Unit that was connected to a PC and could demonstrate the unit's usefulness in former test runs, while FORCE Technology had erected a real Tug Operations Simulator and invited the press and media representatives to try their hands on actual tug operations.



But background information was also eagerly sought. Dieter Seefeldt had to explain in detail again and again the usefulness and future applications of the PortECDIS, ...



... while Professor Jens Froese was questioned on EFFORTS, its aims and objectives as well as on the contributions the

EFFORTS projects will make to increasing safety and efficiency in ports.

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The head-mounted display “helmet”, used to improve 3-dimensional vision in the tug simulator, raised great interest and Klaus Klingelhöller, Managing Director of L&R in Hamburg and former tug master himself, encouraged the guests to try it out



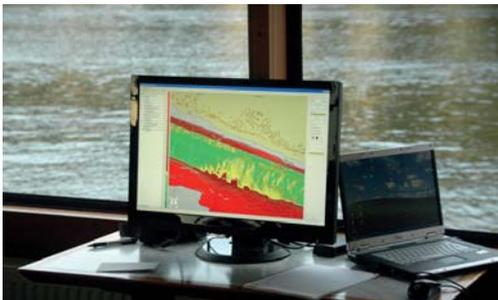
In many discussions with the journalists, Capt Hanne Hinrichsen of MARIMATECH did not tire to give “hands-on” explanations of the usefulness and capabilities of the Pilot Unit.

The On-Board Demonstrations in the Port

In the evening the journalists and other guests took the opportunity to see the PortECDIS and the Portable Pilot Unit in real action. EFFORTS had organised a cruise by launch through the port, during which the presented equipment worked in real life mode.



The cruise gave the participants not only the opportunity to see and test the equipment but also a chance for informal talks and beautiful sights of the port.



The PortECDIS showed the navigation of the launch and the features encountered, with HPA staff on hand to satisfy all questions of the visitors



The Portable Pilot Unit was set up on deck of the launch and raised a lot of attention (here from Dr. Valerio Recagno, EFFORTS' Administrative Coordinator)



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The EFFORTS Demonstration Event Conference

The next day saw the presentations and demonstrations of the project's results for Navigation in Ports to a professional audience. The EFFORTS team was well pre-pared; the Hamburg Port Authority had made available a very suitable venue, and all preparations were completed.



The Leader of the Technical Coordination Team, Professor Jens Froese, and the Conference Leader of the day, Kevin O'Driscoll, cast a last critical look over the arrangements. Some 60 people had announced their participation, there was room for some 80+; will the lecture room be too large or too small for the coming visitors? In the end, the room was filled to the last place, so much interest was rather surprising, but it showed in curiosity the EFFORTS project had raised in the industry.



Mrs Claudia Flecken, Head of the Port Infrastructure Division and Member of the Management Board of the Hamburg Port Authority, opened the conference as the host of the event. She underlined the importance of the PortECDIS for the Authority's future work and expressed her thanks to the European Commission for their contribution and to their staff for the excellent work they have done. She wished all participants and all EFFORTS partners interesting discussions and a successful meeting



Kevin O'Driscoll, the Conference Leader of the day, expressed in the name of all EFFORTS partners his thanks and great appreciation to the European Commission on their foresightness to include investigations into important port-related matters into the 6th Framework Programme, thus giving a great number of institutions all over Europe the chance to work together at improving safety and efficiency in port operations. He thanked the HPA for hosting the day's event, requested the active participation of all present in the deliberations and wished all a successful day.

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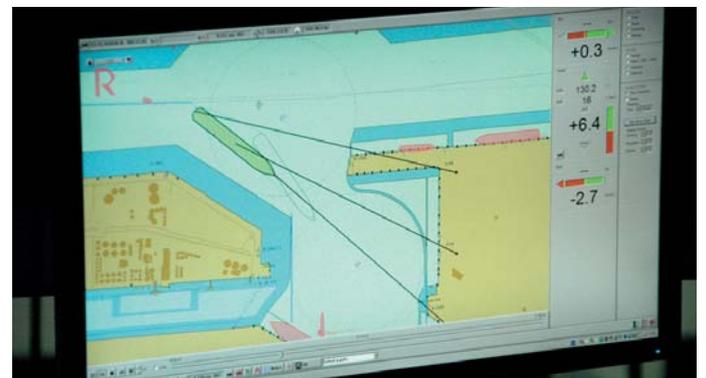
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Professor Jens Froese of ISSUS Maritime Logistics explained the EFFORTS programme, introduced all work packages and stressed in particular the work done for Navigation in Ports



Aage Damsgard of FORCE Technology presented the Tug Handling Simulator and explained how much research and development was necessary to arrive at a product that satisfies the industry's demands.

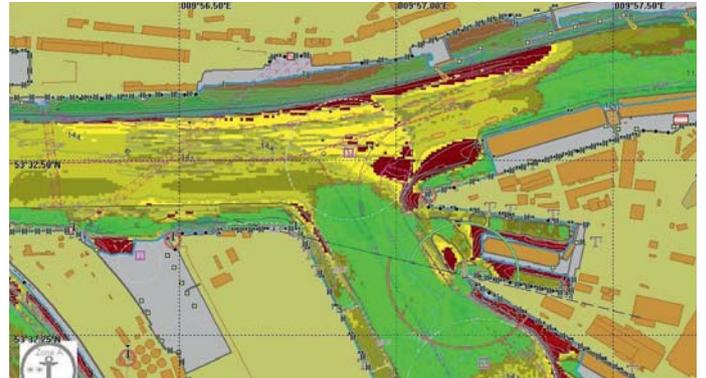


Tommy Mikkelsen explained the development of the Portable Pilot Unit and the successful tests that were recently carried out in Le Havre, Dublin and Hamburg. He outlined further work and invited comments and suggestions from the delegates. Several issues were raised by the attending pilots and suggestions for improvements offered. Tommy promised to keep the dialogue open and continue the work with as much industry input as possible.

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Dieter Seefeldt of the Hamburg Port Authority outlined the history of the development of the PortECDIS, its present state, possible areas of use and informed the audience, not without pride, that the standards developed under this project have been submitted to the relevant authorities to become accepted as international standards. In the ensuing discussion he acknowledged the need for further cooperation with the hydrographic services, for a wider dissemination of the features and possible uses of the PortECDIS and for integrating the work into other professional applications.



A conference room occupied to the last seat, a demonstration room the visitors were reluctant to leave, great interest and smiling faces all around, content and proud presentors; this is how a successful EFFORTS Demonstration Event looks like...



...and visitors from many German and European ports, from the USA and even a pilot from Lobito in Angola, showing interest in the PPU and trying his hands on the Tug Simulator

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In the end... ...smiling faces all around!
A very successful Demonstration Event
Great number of participants, intensive discussions,
high appreciation of work done



Kevin O'Driscoll

Prof Jens Froese

Dieter Seefeldt

Aage Damsgard

Tommy Mikkelsen

A SINCERE THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO
ALL THAT MADE THIS EVENT SUCH A
GREAT SUCCESS



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