



Australian Autonomous Vessel Forum, 19-20 September 2019

Post-event Communique

The Australian Autonomous Vessel Forum explored the challenges, opportunities and risks in regulating autonomous and remotely operated vessels.

Hosted by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and the Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence Cooperative Research Centre (TAS DCRC) on 19-20 September 2019, 135 industry, academic and government experts in automation and digitalisation, were invited to share their knowledge and learnings in this growing industry.

It marked a positive step towards regulator and industry collaboration to ensure thorough testing, trials and safe use of the systems, infrastructure and technology gaining traction in Australia's maritime industry.

The forum also reinforced the vital roles that professional seafarers will continue to have in Australia's maritime industry.



Key forum themes

1. Success in automation and remote operation is achieved through continued **collaboration and partnership**. Shared learnings between industry and regulators enables success in industry and for regulatory development.
2. Uptake of automation and remote operation is **driven by environmentally-friendly solutions and commercial efficiency**.
3. Proven and assured technology offers **better safety for people** and protection of Australia's marine environment.
4. **Understanding risks** and **implementing risk controls** for remotely operated and autonomous vessel technology is crucial to safe operations.
5. Building **assurance** in the **behaviours and functions of a system**, rather than specific technology, will define a 'safe system'.
6. Regulators need to **enable testing, trials and safe failure** of both technology and regulation.
7. Australian and international laws don't recognise remote and autonomous operation. However there is **flexibility and objective-based solutions** that allow remote and autonomous vessels to operate. These are often underutilised and present opportunities.
8. Automation and remote operation is happening today and **seafarers are essential** to its success. Jobs at sea are changing, with new opportunities emerging alongside technology.
9. Cyber security is an industry issue, but it's important to **regulate the need to detect, respond and recover** from a cyber-attack.

Next steps:

- AMSA will continue to rollout information, guidance and resources relating to automation and remote operation.
- AMSA is progressing its policy and regulatory work on remotely operated and autonomous vessels in line with its Autonomous Vessels Policy.
- AMSA will explore the implementation of policy for the trials and testing of automation and remote operation in Australian waters.