



# Smart Shipping & Logistics: Perspectives & Challenges

“anticipating the massive introduction of sensing, actuation, computation, and communication technology”

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 RESEARCHLAB  
AUTONOMOUS SHIPPING

(MaxPixel, Yankao, CC0 Public Domain)

Intelligent Systems, Control and Automation:  
Science and Engineering

José M. Maestre  
Rudy R. Negenborn *Editors*

# Distributed Model Predictive Control Made Easy

 Springer

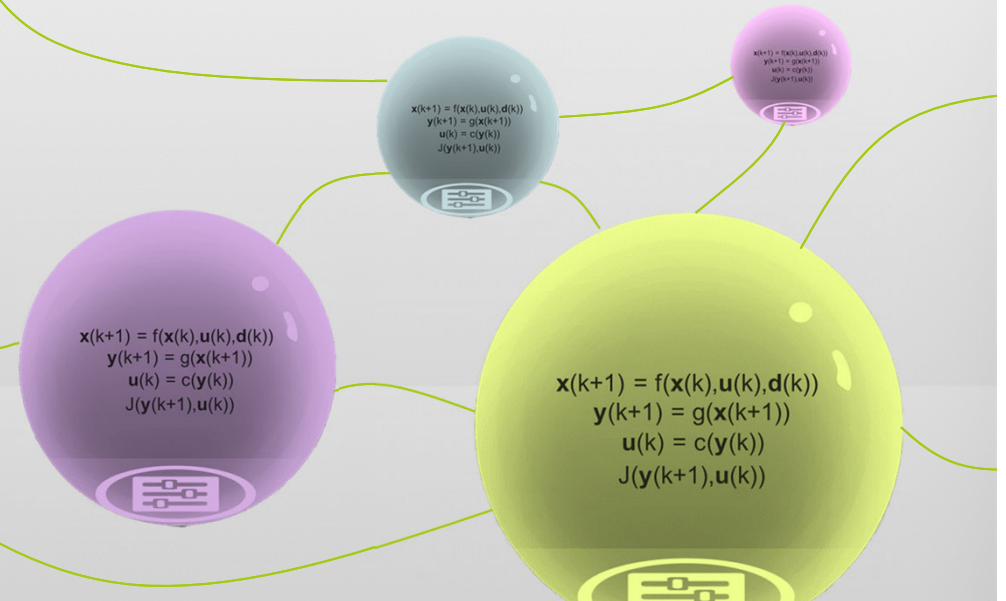
>100.000 downloads

## Distributed Model-based Predictive Control

1: Monitor & collect information

2: (Adapt) Model & predict dynamics

3: Control for optimal performance



# Port automation for inspiration



(ECT, APMT, Rotterdam)



**Mixed-purpose** vehicles can deal with people and freight demand interchangeably.

**92%**

Best results

**12%**

Higher profits

**18%**

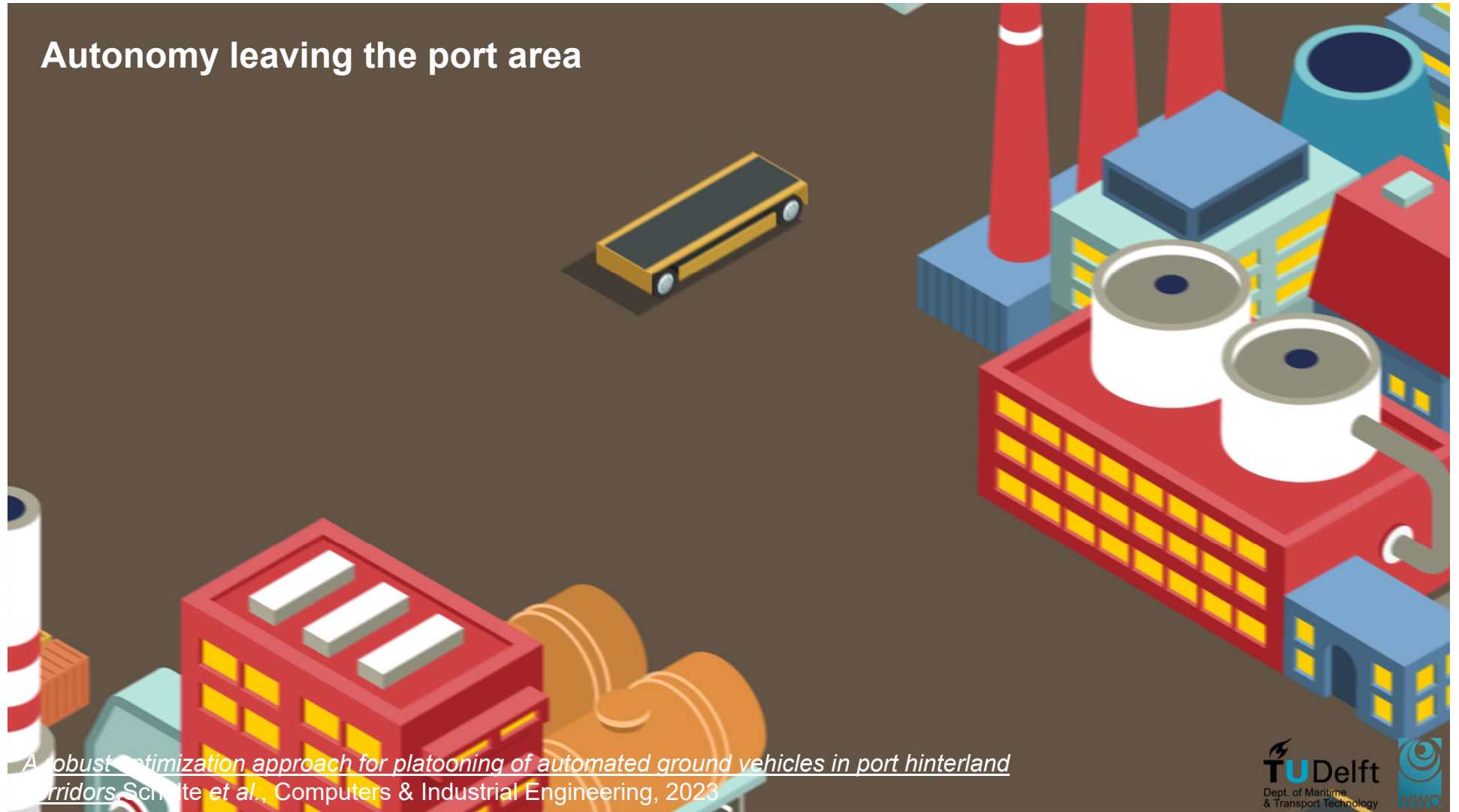
More used vehicles

**22%**

Lower occupancy

*Integrating people and freight transportation using shared autonomous vehicles with compartments, Beirigo, Schulte, IFAC CTS, 2018*

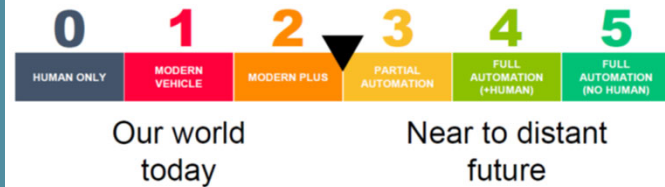
## Autonomy leaving the port area



*A robust optimization approach for platooning of automated ground vehicles in port hinterland corridors*, Schulte et al., Computers & Industrial Engineering, 2023

# Will AVs **really** run everywhere?

## Dual-mode vehicle routing in mixed autonomous and non-autonomous **zone networks**

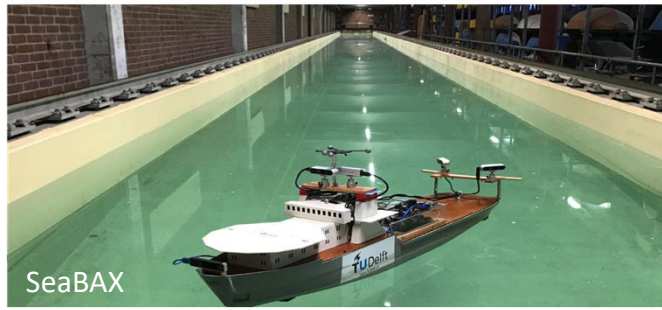
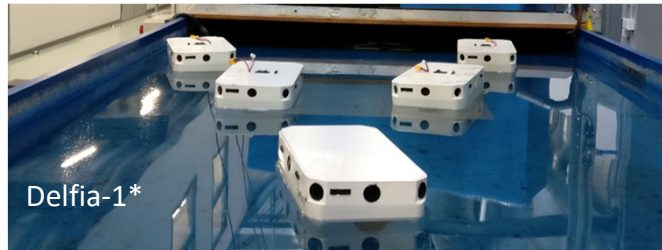


- Conventional driving (CD)
- Automated driving (AD)



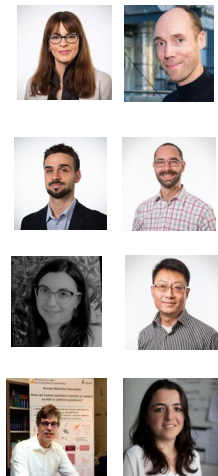
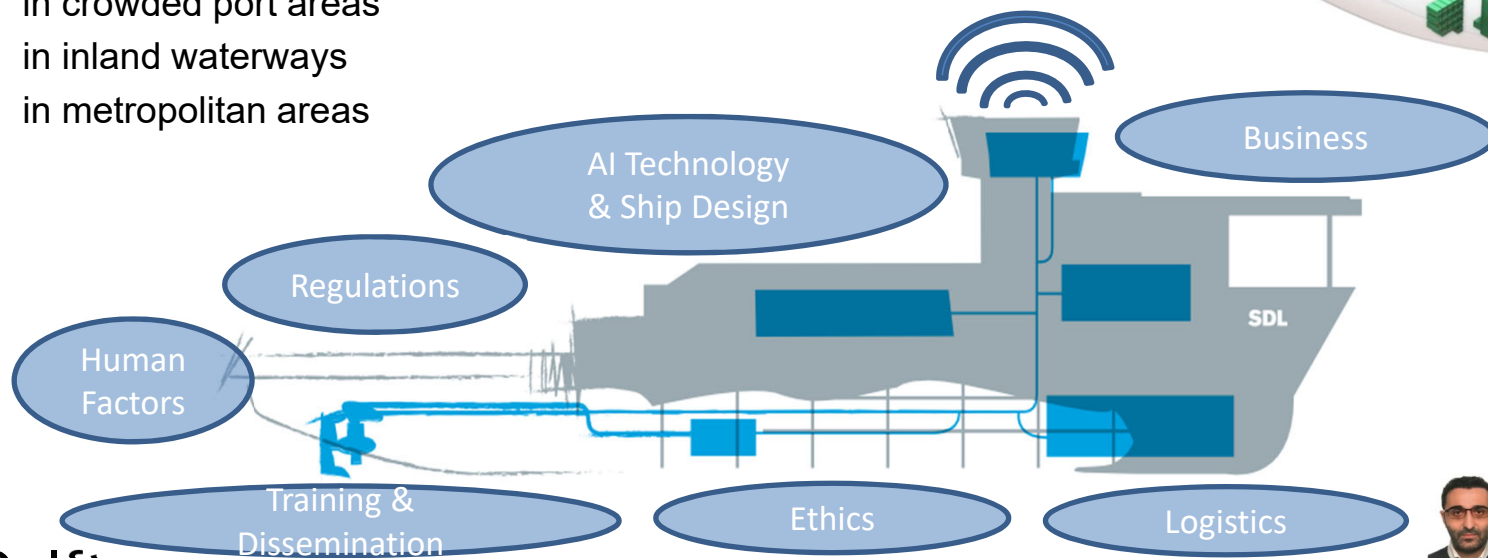
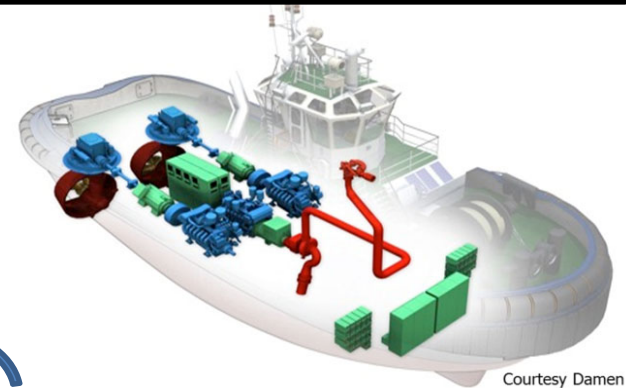
# RESEARCHLAB AUTONOMOUS SHIPPING

- Adaptive control, coordination & health monitoring
- Human-machine intelligence interaction
- Real-time optimization of transport and logistics (e.g. construction materials, mobility solutions)
- Experimental validation using high-fidelity simulations with real-life data and actual vessels (fleet of ~20 vessels)



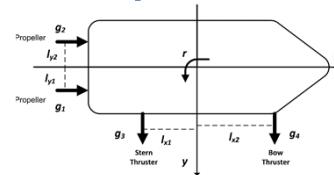
# Multi-disciplinary approaches enabling green and autonomous transport

- on the open oceans
- in crowded port areas
- in inland waterways
- in metropolitan areas

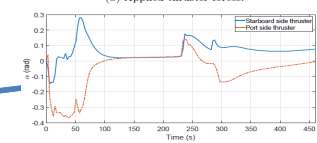
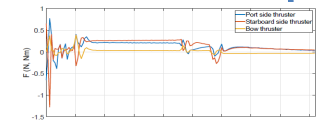
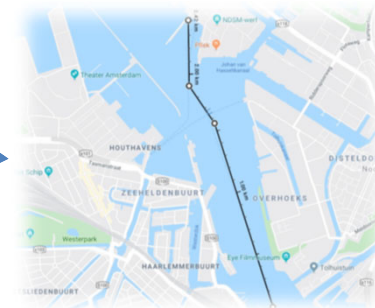
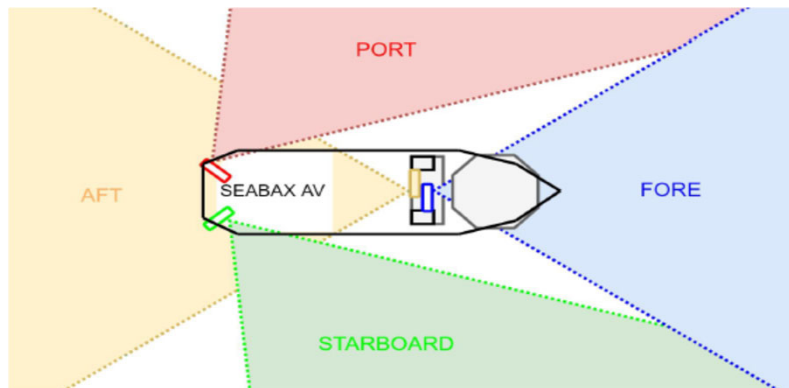


## Single Autonomous Vessel

- Sustainability <-> Efficiency <-> Risk avoidance
- Machine Vision & Situational awareness
- Adaptive Predictive Manoeuvring Control
- Predictive Thrust Allocation & Energy Management



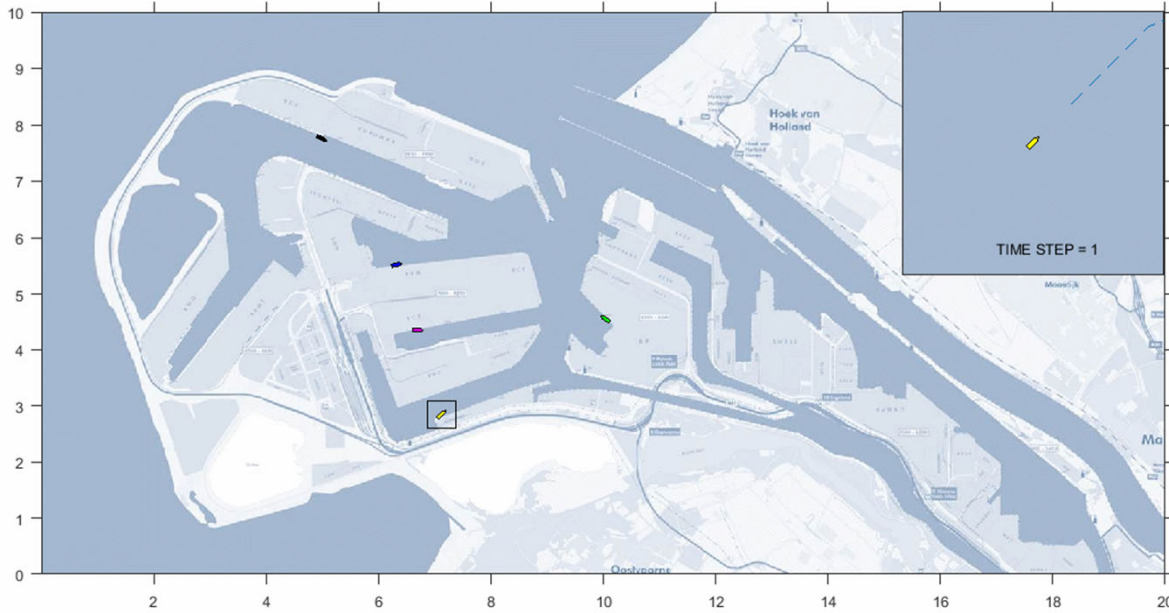
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}(k+1) &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(k), \mathbf{u}(k), \mathbf{d}(k)) \\ \mathbf{y}(k+1) &= \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}(k+1)) \\ \mathbf{u}(k) &= \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{y}(k)) \\ \max J(\mathbf{y}(k+1), \mathbf{u}(k)) \end{aligned}$$



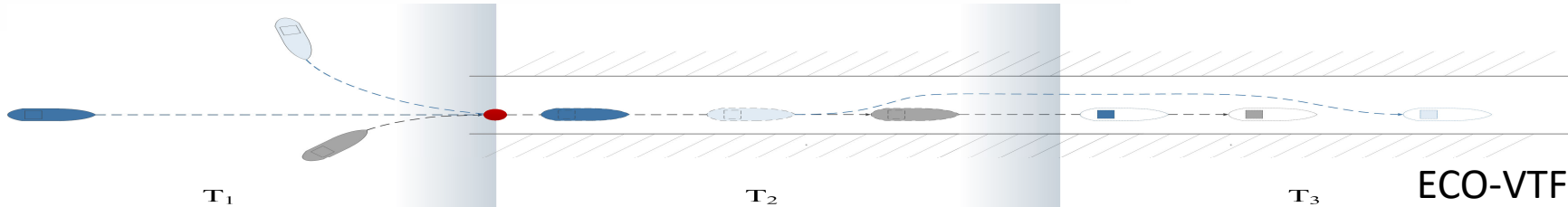
In collaboration  
with AMS & MIT  
Roboat



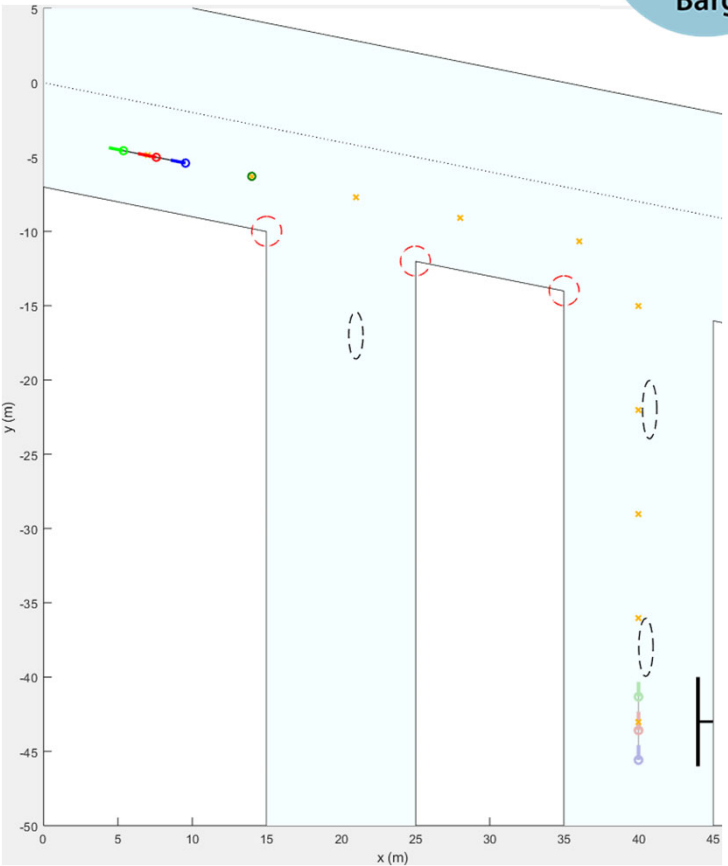
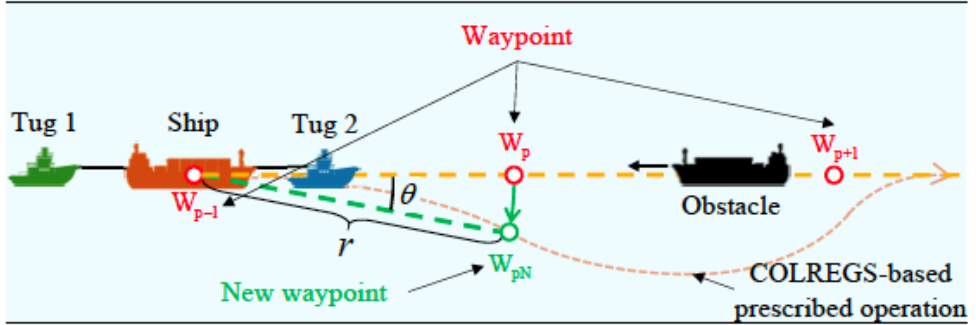
# Fuel-Efficient Vessel Train Formations



**NOVIMAR**  
 VESSELTRAIN



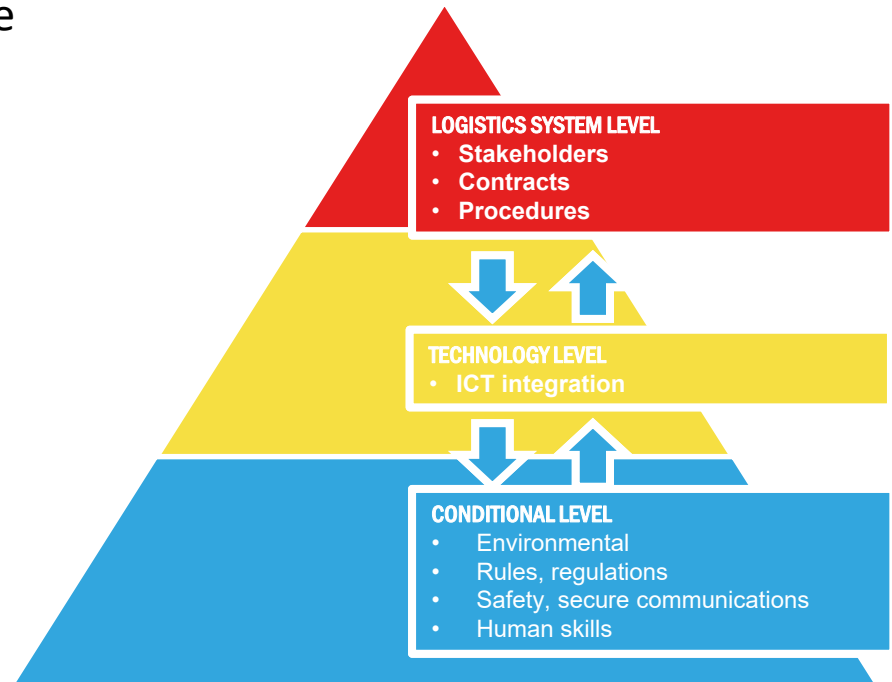
### Object manipulation: Multi-Tug Ship Towing



# Smart Logistics: Putting things in perspective



Make better use of the capacity of inland fleet and infrastructure, and increase IWT reliability and competitiveness



## Further reading on Autonomous Shipping

**Defining autonomy levels:** [Survey on autonomous surface vessels: Part I – A new detailed definition of autonomy levels](#)

In Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Computational Logistics (ICCL 2017), Southampton, UK, pp. 219-233, October 2017.

**Prototypes and applications:** [Survey on autonomous surface vessels: Part II – Categorization of 60 prototypes and future applications](#)

In Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Computational Logistics (ICCL 2017), Southampton, UK, pp. 234-252, October 2017.

**Maritime ecosystem:** [Smart ships and the changing maritime ecosystem](#)

SmartPort White Paper, 30 pp., September 2018.

**Cooperative control:** [Survey on cooperative control for waterborne transport](#)

IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Magazine, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 71-90, 2020.

**Collision avoidance:** [Ship collision avoidance methods: State-of-the-art](#)

Safety Science, vol. 121 (2020), pp. 451-473, 2019.

## Further reading on Autonomous Shipping

**Motion control:** [State-of-the-art research on motion control of maritime autonomous surface ships](#)  
Journal of Marine Science and Engineering, vol. 7, no. 12, December 2019. Open access.

**Application, technology and infrastructure:** [Autonomous surface vessels in ports: Applications, technology and port infrastructures](#)  
In Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Computational Logistics (ICCL 2018), Vietri sul Mare, Italy, pp. 85-105, October 2018.

**Short-term technology developments:** [Survey on short-term technology developments and readiness levels for autonomous shipping](#)  
In Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Computational Logistics (ICCL 2018), Vietri sul Mare, Italy, pp. 106-123, October 2018.

**Collaborative shipping:** [The Collaborative Autonomous Shipping Experiment \(CASE\): Motivations, theory, infrastructure, and experimental challenges](#)  
In Proceedings of the 2020 International Ship Control Systems Symposium (iSCSS 2020), Delft, The Netherlands, October 2020.



# Smart Shipping: Perspectives & Challenges

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