



OVERHEAT PRESS RELEASE #1

Prevention and management of containership fires: the OVERHEAT project officially kicked off to propose innovative strategies and solutions

Maritime transport is at the heart of global trade, handling approximately 90% of the world's goods by volume and value. However, modern containerships are constructed based on the same fundamental design principles as older, smaller ones, without adequately considering potential safety and security implications.

Cargo fires pose a significant threat to ships, including ferries with trucks carrying containers. These fires can result in human and cargo losses and can also impact coastal zones and marine protected areas.

The European funded research project “OVERHEAT - INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FOR CONTAINERSHIP FIRES PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT” is composed of variegate group of stakeholders, including maritime companies, port managers and authorities, policy makers, business associations, and academic participants, whose main goal is to advance knowledge and technologies to prevent and manage fire accidents on board of containerships. The OVERHEAT project strategies are focused to increase the safety of humans and/or cargoes, and sensitively reducing the fires impacts on coastal areas, also addressing the current lack of mandatory regulations for installing fixed fire detection systems above the weather deck of a container ship.

To achieve such an impressive objective, OVERHEAT will develop a Digital Solution (DS) offering a comprehensive view of the situation on board and around the vessel. Additionally, the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) sensors (fixed and mobile) and Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) will establish an on-the-spot system for fire prevention, early detection, and rapid response. Best practices and safety culture assessments will be conducted to prevent fires and understand crew’s awareness of on-board safety situations. The OVERHEAT project aims to introduce a new generation of digital fire management solutions that are complete, seamless, real-time, and compliant with IMO regulations, integrated into the vessel's IT infrastructure. The impact of this solution will be initially assessed through validation activities in a simulated environment, followed by demonstration activities in a real environment, with identified five use cases to demonstrate feasibility and benefits. OVERHEAT coordinated by IMAT with the support of the project partner ISSNOVA, officially started on January 1st, 2024 and was kicked off on January 31st and February 1st 2024 in the IMAT headquarters.

The 17 partners had the occasion to meet together for the first time for paving the way to the future of the maritime, in the name of safety and security of seamen, containerships and maritime sector in general.

The consortium members of the project are:

ITALIAN MARITIME ACADEMY TECHNOLOGIES SRL, www.imat2006.it

FONDAZIONE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY AND INNOVATION, www.issnova.eu

SIEC BADAWCZA LUKASIEWICZ-INSTYTUTLOTNICTWA, www.ilot.lukasiewicz.gov.pl

INSTITUT FUR SEEVERKEHRSWIRTSCHAFT UND LOGISTIK, www.isl.org

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