



# SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



## Autonomous Ship Development Boost

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the Korean Register (KR), Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI) and shipping company KLCSSM is expected to speed up the development of autonomous ships.

These next generation of vessels are envisaged as being operated by autonomous navigation systems based on artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), “big data” and sensors to replace human decision making.



Under the MoU, which was signed at the recent Korea Ocean Expo in Incheon, the three companies are to jointly research and approve the application of such systems for mid to large-sized vessels.

According to the agreement, SHI’s pioneering system for autonomous navigation will be applied to KLCSSM’s fleet of ships to perform risk assessments, develop and certify cyber-security systems as well as review the conformity of various agreements and standards for future approval by ship registries.

In addition, the organisations will comprehensively collaborate over the commercialisation of autonomous navigation systems through the Marine Equipment Directive (MED) certification of SHI’s Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) modules.

The MoU is seen as a spur for the application of more autonomous navigation systems and more efficient ship management, given the current shortage of seafarers.

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