



Hildegunn McLernon to chair work on digitalisation at the Waterborne Technology Platform

The digital transformation of the European waterborne transport sector needs a coordinated approach. A working group, chaired by Hildegunn McLernon, has been established to ensure a coordinated vision and approach regarding digitalisation

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The Waterborne Technology Platform (TP) is the European research and innovation platform for the waterborne industries, providing policy guidance to the European institutions regarding research, development and innovation, as well as the deployment of these innovations. Furthermore, the Waterborne TP coordinates the private side of the Partnership on [Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport](#) (ZEWT) with the European Commission. Currently representing 123 members, from 20 European Member States and four other European Countries, the Waterborne TP has a significant footprint in the European Union.

Progressing on the green and digital ambitions is one of the priorities of the European waterborne transport sector. However, different segments might have different challenges and opportunities, and related research, development and innovation needs. Specifically for this reason, the Waterborne Technology Platform established a working group, to develop a coordinated vision and approach regarding digitalisation. As a first step, the working group will focus on the context and problem definition, as well as the objectives and expected impacts of digitalisation of the waterborne transport sector. It is currently expected that a first draft report will be ready towards the end of 2024.

The Board of the Waterborne Technology Platform also appointed the following members of the working group: Duncan Duffy (Lloyd's Register), Andrea Melegari (Fincantieri NexTech), H el ene Smidt, (Belgian Shipowners' Association), Emmanuel Brochard (NAVAL Group) and Hermann-Josef Mammes (Meyer Werft).

"It is an honour to continue the good work that has been done previously, and to build on that to further finetune our work on digitalisation. We will aim to steer it towards tangible results to help the waterborne transport sector in the green and digital transition. The waterborne sector is a highly diverse sector with many different stakeholders. They are all represented in the Waterborne Technology Platform. Assisting the sector towards achieving a resilient, competitive and sustainable future is our key objective", Hildegunn McLernon, SVP Technology Strategy and Portfolio at Kongsberg Maritime, said.

Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne TP, added: *"The Waterborne TP strongly believes in a coordinated approach towards the development and implementation of digital solutions. Over the past couple of years, extensive work has been done by the membership, whereas the technical building blocks discussed, will now be translated in a coordinated vision and approach. Only together we can charter our course, not only in the area of the transition to zero-emission waterborne transport. In the area of digitalisation this is a prerequisite, since it connects a broad array of actors, Mr. Lehtovaara concluded"*



WATERBORNE TP has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between all waterborne stakeholders, such as classification societies, shipbuilders, shipowners, maritime equipment manufacturers, infrastructure and service providers, universities or research institutes, and with the EU Institutions, including Member States (www.waterborne.eu). The members of Waterborne TP comprise members as well as associated members from both maritime and inland navigation countries, representing about 20 Member States. In addition, the Associations member of the Waterborne Technology Platform represent the broader waterborne sector throughout the entire EU.

Enquiries concerning how to join and become more closely involved in the “Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport” partnership or other activities of the Waterborne TP can be sent to: Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General Waterborne TP, jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu, tel: +32 493 835 626