



**Industry Association MARINET**

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Dear Sirs,

In 2019, a group of shipping and technological companies, research centers, and universities under the umbrella of MARINET has launched the Autonomous Navigation Trial Project, the world's largest and the most ambitious one. The project's main goal is to ensure technical and legal conditions contributing to vast MASS operation by any shipping company from 2021.

The proposed legal approach has convinced the Russian Maritime Administration of its efficacy such that from 2021 any shipping company is able to use MASS at Russian flagged ships as an experiment in its regular operation. The developed universal technical solutions, enabling any vessel to be upgraded to an autonomous one, are currently tested on several ships in actual operating conditions.

On April 28 the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation with the support of IMO and in partnership with the Industry Association MARINET and the a-Navigation Promotion Center "MARINET RUT" is organizing the online Conference on a-Navigation (autonomous and remote navigation).

For the first time, we will present to the wide international audience and discuss the details about Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) regulation recently adopted in Russia, technical solutions available for the automatic and remote navigation, and further plans for vast MASS trial operation started from 2021.

I'm pleased to invite you to participate in the Conference on a-Navigation! I believe that it can be valuable input and good starting point for our cooperation in a-Navigation development and promotion, for the joint projects and efforts in this area. Also, you may disseminate this invitation to your relevant partners who could be involved in such joint projects.

The conference will be held online on April 28 at 10:00 (GMT+1, London time). The program and the details on how to join the conference will be sent by e-mail to the registered participants. Participants may register via <https://marinet.org/april-28-2021-the-conference-on-a-navigation/>

Sincerely yours,

Alexander Pinskiy

General Director

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