Abstract

Unmanned devices are deployed in various fields, a technology that is also evolving rapidly. It is therefore relevant to examine whether this can also be done in shipping. The aim of this dissertation is to find out what technologies are needed on ships to make them unmanned and what unmanned ships should be capable of. To this end, both legislation and a number of existing projects have been studied. A scale model was built to see what obstacles need to be overcome during construction. Finally, an overview was made of what is needed to make unmanned shipping possible. The study shows that current legislation does allow unmanned navigation. Moreover, most technologies are available to make it possible. However, there are still a number of points that need to be studied in more detail, such as which technology is ultimately best suited for data communication. What is clear, however, is that the developments in this field mark a new phase in the evolution of shipping.