

PRESS RELEASE

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Integrating the human element

There is no shortage of discussion about the human element and its contribution to the efficient and safe operation of ships. But the ship is a complex system into which those who will operate her will be integrated, not merely adapting themselves to the design. Seafarers should not “just fit in where they can” around the operational demands of the ship.

The best solutions, points out the latest issue of the International Maritime Human Element Bulletin **Alert!**, apply a wholly integrated approach to the ship systems, ensuring that the requirements of the operator are designed into all its structure and equipment, to get the very best out of the ship. This needs comprehensive understanding of the way that the human beings who will work the ship interact with the vessel, both at work and during their leisure hours, for the ship is their living quarters too.

It is an important function of the initial design, but says **Alert!** it is a dynamic process that will be capable of adjustment during the long life-cycle of the average ship, where there will be changed circumstances in operating patterns, improved technology and new regulation.

Alert! outlines the six “abilities” - habitability, maintainability, workability, controllability, manoeuvrability and survivability that will require the human element to be closely integrated into each. The well designed ship will be well integrated with the human element smoothly coping with the ship and its systems.

The target of this integration is to produce a “balanced development” of the technological and human aspects of the ship’s operational capability, effectively getting the best out of the ship and her crew, through an efficient, safe, happy and healthy working environment. It is something that does not happen by accident.

Alert! No 11 covers a range of issues, including crew competence, training, leadership and management and the application of human factors methodologies. This is the jigsaw, the completion of which brings together an efficient ship.

Ends

Notes to editors

The **Alert!** Project – launched in October 2003 – is a three-year campaign to improve the awareness of the human element in the maritime industry. This is a Nautical Institute project, sponsored by Lloyd’s Register EMEA.

Further information about the human element awareness initiative, and electronic copies of **Alert!** can be found at www.he-alert.org.



Innovation in Ship Operations Award

Improving the awareness of the Human Element in the maritime industry