



EUROPEAN TUGOWNERS ASSOCIATION

62nd Annual Meeting | Syracuse June 2025

AI Horizons: Transforming Maritime Operations

Overall scope

The aim of the conference is to look into the trends of AI today and what this entails in the future for our business, the maritime sector and specifically towage. We will look into how this is transforming the way we work, and also how jobs will change. We will also look at the pitfalls and opportunities therein.

Agenda

- 11.00 Opening by the ETA Chairman Alberto Dellepiane
- 11.05 Address by Admiral Massimo Seno (Government Commissioner of the Western Ligurian Sea)
- 11.15 Introduction by the moderator – David Biddulph (ACL Shipbrokers)
- 11.20 Charting the AI-Driven Future: From Innovation to Reality – Federica Matarazzi (IBM Italy)
- 11.55 Smarter Seas: AI-Powered Innovation in Maritime and Towage – (Ipek Gurun, Sanmar)
- 12.25 A governmental approach to AI, the case for the UK SOSREP - Stephan Hennig
- 12.50 The Invisible Crew: How AI is Reshaping our Daily Work – Dr Nikolaos Antonakakis (Webster University)
- 13.15 Conclusion and wrap up

Alberto Dellepiane Following several professional experiences abroad and within Italian companies, in 2002 Alberto Dellepiane joined his family business, Rimorchiatori Riuniti, where he played a key role in the restructuring of the harbour towage sector, with a particular emphasis on labour organization. He currently holds the position of CEO Italy at MedTug, Rimorchiatori Riuniti Porto di Genova, Rimorchiatori Salerno, S.E.R.S., and Rimorchiatori Sardi. He is also Chairman of Rimorchiatori Augusta and Tripmare. In addition, he serves as Chairman of the Italian Tugowners Association, Assorimorchiatori

Admiral Massimo Seno is the current Commissioner of the Western Ligurian Sea Port System Authority, overseeing the ports of Genoa and Savona. Admiral Seno holds a degree in Economics and Commerce from the University of Bari (1990) and has been a permanent officer in the Italian Coast Guard since 1991. He was nominated, at various stages of his long career, for senior posts in the Italian local Coast Guard Services, with a role in crew and ship administration, in addition

to the protection of the maritime state territorial area and marine environment. In 2019 he was appointed Head of Legal Affairs and Inspection of the General Command of the Corps of the Italian Coast Guard Service, designated to coordinate all the territorial divisions of the Coast Guards in terms of security enforcement and the port police force. Drawing upon his wide-ranging experience, RAdm Massimo Seno provided legal and administrative support to the salvage operations of the Costa Concordia wreckage off the Tuscany coast of the island of Giglio. He currently serves as President of the Technical Committee for the Planning of Maritime Areas at the Italian Ministry for Infrastructure and Transport.

Federica Matarazzi Federica, boasting a master's degree in management engineering from the University of Napoli Federico II, currently serving as the Head of Data and AI Development within IBM Consulting Italy Strategic Sales team. In more than 17 years of experience, she worked with major public and private Institutions, leading transformative programs focused on Data and AI adoption. She is focused on complex technological programs while maintaining a steadfast commitment to ethical AI practices and a human-centric approach. Federica fosters academic partnerships with esteemed Italian institutions such as Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa and ABI Lab, the Italian Banking Association's Innovation Hub.

İpek Gurun joined Sanmar Shipyards in 2022 and since has been serving as Corporate Strategy Director, responsible for Sanmar's digital transformation journey, pricing and budgeting strategy. Between 2019 and 2022, she worked in the UK tech sector focusing on digital transformation of regulated digital platforms. İpek studied Management Science with a Data Science minor at UCL, and holds a master's degree in management of IS and Digital Innovation from the London School of Economics.

Stephan Hennig joined the UK Maritime Authority in 2005 working first in Search and Rescue and then Counter Pollution and Salvage. He served as the Deputy to the Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP) with the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) until 2018 before being appointed to the role of SOSREP in 2019. Stephan works closely with all stakeholders involved in casualty response. He is the UK Competent Authority for wreck removal and for designating places of refuge for vessels requiring assistance.

Dr. Nikolaos Antonakakis is an associate professor of Economics at Webster Vienna Private University, as well as a visiting fellow at the University of Portsmouth. He had previously held a position of assistant professor of Economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU Wien) and at the Johannes Kepler University in Austria, and senior lecturer in Economics and Finance at the University of Portsmouth. He holds a PhD in Economics and an MSc in International and Financial Economics from the University of Strathclyde, and a BSc in Economics from Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB).

David Biddulph joined ACL Shipbrokers in 2022, where he primarily focuses on the Sale and Purchase of port tugs. In addition to his core responsibilities, he contributes to market reports, vessel valuations, chartering, and the coordination of heavy-lift transport projects. He read Early Modern History at both Exeter and St Andrews and is currently working toward the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS) Professional Qualification.