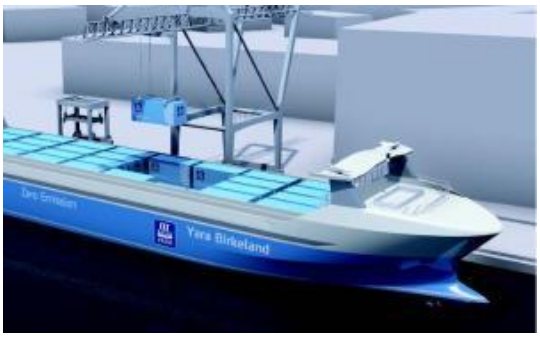
Autonomous Ships



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Description

Large autonomous ships can change the shipping industry by increasing efficiency and reducing human error.

Examples

Early 2018, an oil tanker caught fire after colliding with another boat in the East China Sea, killing more than two dozen people. It's another reason that companies are looking to automation in shipping. The Yara Birkeland is an electric container ship which is supported by radar, LiDAR, machine learning and computer vision systems, an automatic mooring system and a network for cameras. It is currently on schedule to transition from traditional human-crewed operation to remote operation in 2019 and then fully autonomous operation in 2020.

Driverless ferries are beginning to be trialed in Norway to replace and reduce the number of footbridges. An initial prototype built by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology is an electric craft that uses radar, infrared camera, optical camera, and LIDAR to travel 320 feet across a river, saving passengers an otherwise 15-minute walk.

What's Next

Electric ships that don't require people would offer cost savings throughout the entire shipping supply chain. They could be safer, solve for labor shortages, and be better for the environment. The International Maritime Organization has begun a scoping exercise that will complete in 2020 after which practical drafting will start and lay the legal foundation for maritime autonomous surface ships.

Tags

autonomous driving **logistic** **logistics** **marine** **shipping**

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