



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 415 of 06th June 2017

To: All Surveyors/Auditors

Applicable to flag: All Flags

Drones vs. Delivery launch boats

Reference: Unmanned aerial vehicles

Drones vs. Delivery launch boats

Cost Efficiency

Using drones, rather than launch boats can help reduce costs by up to 90% for vessel operators and ship managers.

The cost of launch boats is on average USD 1,500 per hire, but this can vary depending on port location and in certain ports costs per hire can amount to as much as USD 4,000. Drones on the other hand could offer cost savings across the entire industry of up to USD 675 million.

Speedier Deliveries

Drone technology has proven its ability to speed up deliveries, slashing the lead times seen on traditional forms of last mile delivery.

Long lead times for the delivery of crucial spare parts, vital medicine or necessary documentation, results in time lost and increased costs. The use of fast and reliable drones will help ensure that vessels' waiting time for deliverables is kept to a minimum. For example, the semi- autonomous drone types Wilhelmsen has reviewed for parcel delivery can reach a speed between 10 – 30 m/s.

Less Labor-Dependent

Today, using launch boats typically requires the use of ropes, cranes and/or crew climbing onboard to hand over the parcels. Semi-autonomous drones are less labor-dependent, with a pre-programmed drone ensuring precise landing on the vessel's deck for the seamless

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Example

To make the scenario as close to reality as possible the company simulated that a vessel had problems with a broken fuel pipe. The drone took off smoothly with a parcel weighing 1 kg. The whole process of mounting the package to the drone, take-off and dropping to the vessel took approximately 1 minute with a flight of 500 meters. Larger cargo vessels will typically have assigned landing spaces on deck for the drones to land, rather than the parcel dropping from the drone.

REFERENCES:

- Drone technology

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
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