

DP Performance and Incident Analyses

Authors: Nils Albert Jenssen, and Øyvind Hauge, *Kongsberg Simrad AS (Norway)*

Abstract

Much can be gained by systematically analysing the DP performance of vessels. Such analyses can both reveal “hidden problems” in the total system (including power generation and thrusters) as well as improve the operational procedures. Fuel consumption and wear and tear may be reduced by using the DP control system in a more optimal way; by setting appropriate control strategy, gain levels, etc. By incorporating results from systematic performance analyses into the operational procedure, good savings may be obtained. Such analyses are not very often carried out in a systematic manner. Deep knowledge on hydrodynamics, control theory as well as the actual design of the DP control system is advantageous, but not absolutely necessary. What is a necessity, however, is good data facilities which can give the analyst full insight into the vessel behaviour, the operator actions and the control system.

What has been said about performance analyses also applies to incident investigations. But, this topic is generally a more complicated detective’s task.

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