

**Title: Advanced Training for DP Operators -
Is it time? What should it look like? How could it be used?**

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Abstract

This Paper addresses the concept of “Advanced DP Operator Training” and provides answers to the questions: Is it time for the offshore industry to seriously consider an advanced training program? What subjects, exercises, and scope of simulator work should be included? And finally, how could companies use this program to enhance operational safety?

The author represents one of the Dynamic Positioning training facilities in the U.S. which has developed, implemented, and conducted Advanced DP Operator courses. The presentation and paper will include the Subject Matter Outline of the course, as well as information regarding the written and simulator exercises conducted, including corresponding results.

The Nautical Institute DP Training scheme of shore based Induction (basic) and Simulator (advanced) courses have, for the most part, served industry well in the past. However, in the time since many DP Operators have taken these courses, a number of things have changed regarding DP operations, and the current scope of DP training may not be keeping pace.

Today, more DP vessels than ever before have electric propulsion plants. DP vessels are used for a wider variety and complexity of operations, and many vessels are configured for multiple operations. DP control systems have undergone significant changes in software and hardware with many additional functions to provide enhanced control.

There are those who would argue that today, some entry level DP Operator trainees may not have enough of the basic skills or experience necessary to fully benefit from the initial DP certification training courses. Advanced DP Operator Training could be used to fill some of this void for those persons.

Advanced DP Operator Training can increase operational safety and reduce serious incidents through additional knowledge of Power system faults and failures, review of possible solutions to positioning system problems, as well as realistic, challenging, and operationally advanced simulator exercises.

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