

Title: Doppler Weather Radars and Weather Decision Support for DP Vessels

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Abstract

In the past two decades there have been many incidents with DP vessels that were caused by sudden wind shifts or other weather hazards. Most of these Emergency Disconnect Sequence (EDS) incidents could have been prevented or mitigated if the proper weather information was available to captains and/or DP operators of the vessels even just a few minutes before the event occurred. The stakes are very high, the loss of position of a DP Vessel can result in personal injury, environmental pollution, or catastrophic damage. One incident can cost tens of millions of dollars, plus lost productivity. And many can be avoided.

This paper proposes that the industry as a whole jointly (or individually) invest in DP vessel or oil platform-borne Doppler weather radars along with software analytics tools that will automatically provide alerts of rapid wind shifts and strong wind speeds, at a minimum, providing 5-20 minutes lead-time to hazardous events. With today's Doppler weather radars and superior automated weather hazard detection and tracking capabilities, there is no reason that hazardous weather should hit a DP vessel without warning.

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