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Presentation Title : IMO DP Guidelines MCS.1/Circ.1580 What is new, what is not, and is it fit for the future?

Abstract: At its ninety-eighth session (7-16 June 2017) the IMO Maritime Safety Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1580 'Guidelines for vessels and units with dynamic positioning (DP) systems'. Opportunities to apply or reference the design related elements of these guidelines have been few and far between during the downturn. This is expected to change rapidly as the offshore oil and gas industry continues to recover.

Its predecessor, MSC/Circ.645 'Guidelines for Vessels with Dynamic Positioning Systems', dated 6 June 1994 served the industry well for many years but some sections lacked relevance to new technologies.

The new guidelines recommend that MSC.1/Circ.1580 is applied to vessels and units to be constructed on or after 9 June 2017. However, it should also be noted that Section 4 is retrospective and applies to all vessels regardless of their year of construction. While superficially similar to IMO MSC 645, in some respects, the impacts of changes in some clauses is more significant than a preliminary comparison might suggest.

This paper will:

- Introduce the reader to the new MSC.1/Circ.1580 guidelines and identify and discuss the impact of the changes (and the potential consequences of these) for different stakeholders.
- Discuss whether the changes went far enough to address and accommodate the rapid technological advances taking place in the maritime industry and what the consequences of such omissions might be.

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