Ferry Go!

Interreg

(Ko-)finanziert von der Europäischen Union
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Deutschland – Nederland

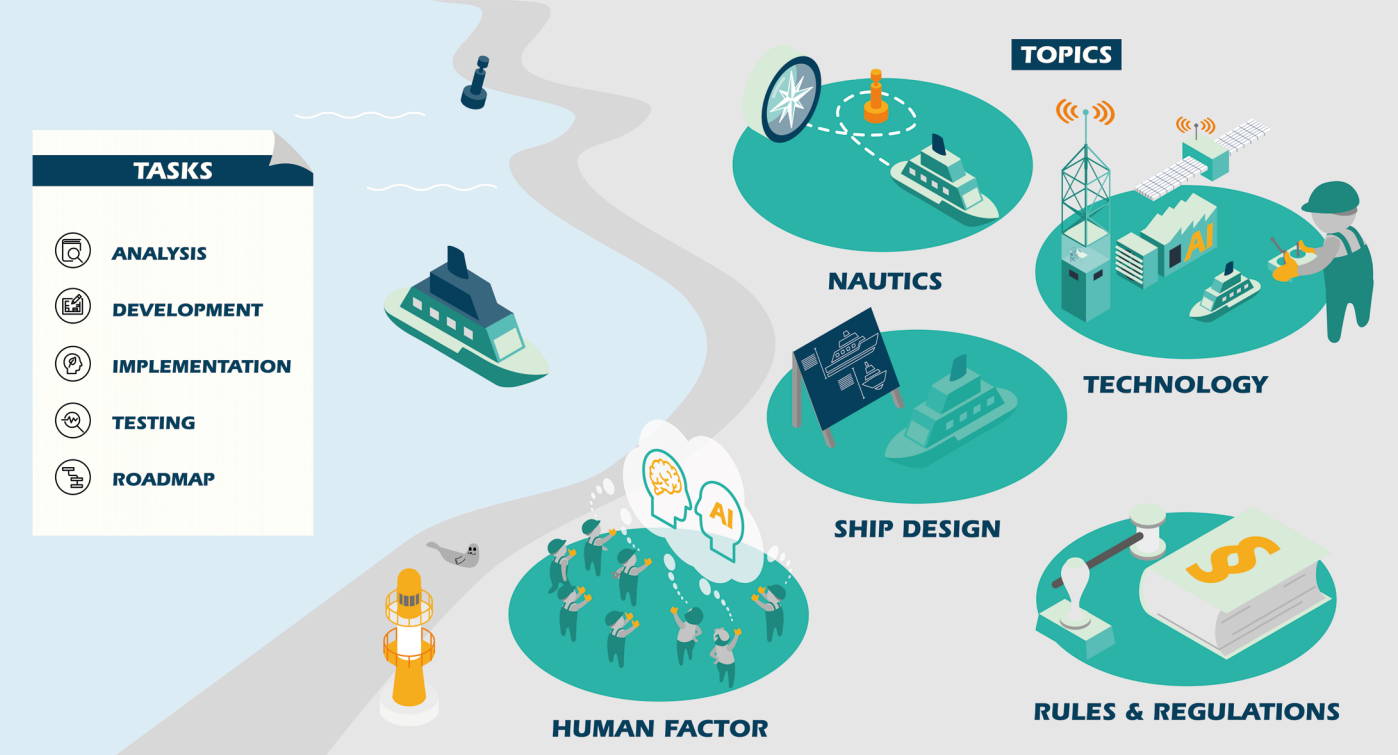
Ferry Go!

FACTSHEET

Ferry Go! - Autonomous systems for ferries in the German-Dutch Wadden Sea

Background

There are many challenges for ferry transport in the Wadden Sea from the mainland to the East Frisian and Dutch islands. Due to the shortage of skilled labour, shipping companies are under pressure to recruit staff. In addition, there are increasingly high demands for efficient ship operation, low energy consumption, increased ship safety and better utilisation of (port) infrastructure. The use of intelligent systems for (partially) autonomous shipping can help to meet these challenges. The Wadden Sea UNESCO World Heritage Site is a unique sailing area with very special requirements for ferry traffic. It is a heavily travelled, tide-dependent protected area with specific variables that make navigation a challenge even for experienced seafarers.



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The driving profiles of ferries such as these are recorded in the project, including driving areas, driving times, manoeuvrability and navigation requirements. The data collected is used to create digital visualisations of the driving profiles and to test navigational tasks in a virtual environment.

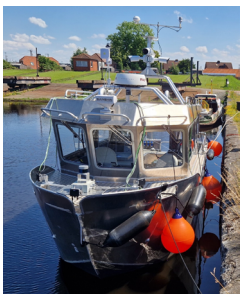
Goals and tasks

The aim of the project is to develop and apply a roadmap for the development and use of autonomous systems for ferries in the German-Dutch Wadden Sea. The project will analyse and test perspectives and concrete requirements for the use of (partially) autonomous navigation systems for ferries on both sides of the border. The expected result of Ferry Go! is a system for autonomous ferries in the Wadden Sea, with which a largely unmanned ship operation can be simulated and in which human interaction only takes place in an emergency.

The project realisation includes the following topics:

- Navigation: Route planning and navigation
- Technology: Navigation and control systems, use of AI, communication technology and remote control
- Ship design: Construction and optimisation of design parameters
- Human factor: Human-machine interaction and acceptance
- Rules and regulations: Regulations to ensure ship safety

'Sally', the DLR research vessel, will be used to test and optimise the navigation systems used virtually during the test runs in the harbour and Wadden Sea under real conditions.



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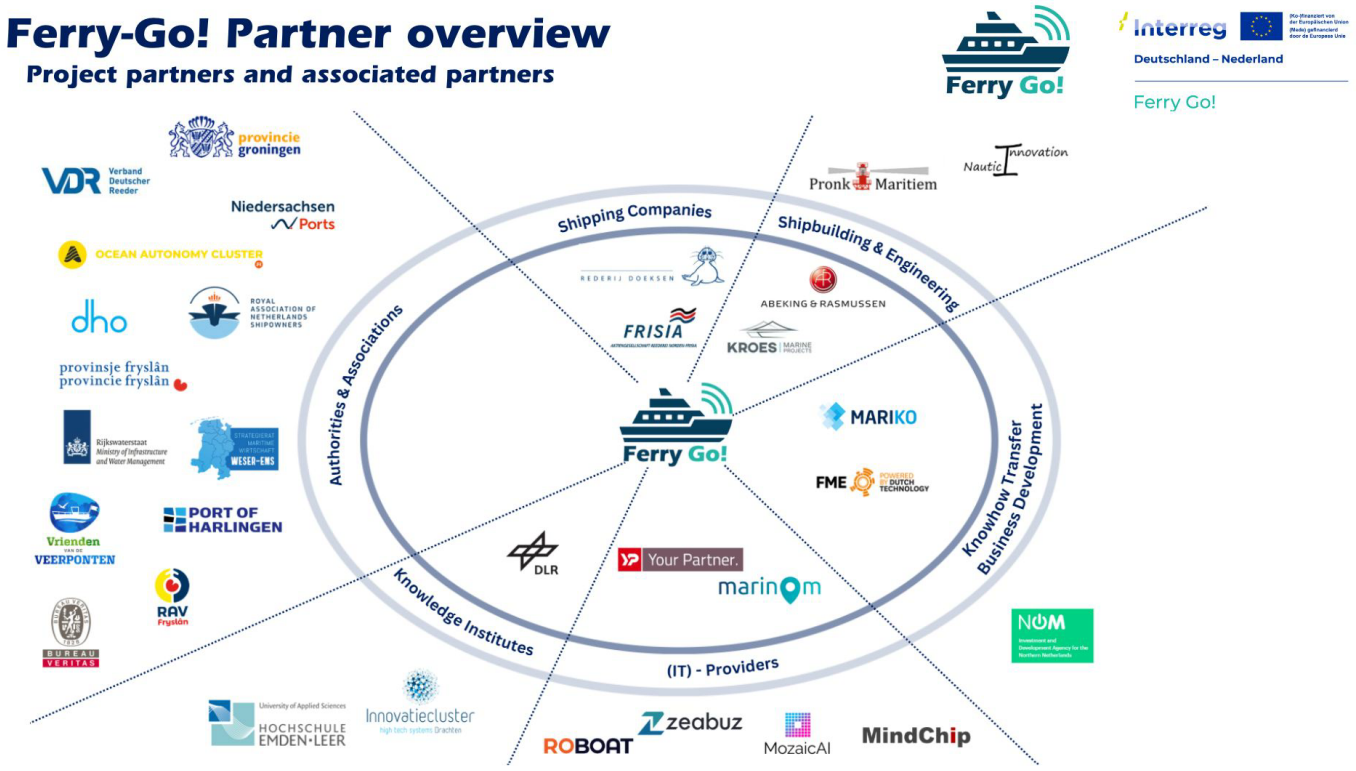
Partners

The Ferry Go! project is being realised by a cross-border consortium of nine partners. Six companies, two specialised transfer institutions and one research institute are involved. The project is scheduled to run for three and a half years and has a total budget of around EUR 3.7 million.

Partner overview incl. associated partners:



Funding

The Ferry Go! project is being implemented as part of the Interreg VI A Germany-Nederland programme and is co-financed with 1.97 million euros by the European Union, the MB Niedersachsen and Ministerie van Economische Zaken en Klimaat as well as the provinces of Groningen and Fryslân.

Ministerie van Economische Zaken en Klimaat
provincie groningen
provinsje fryslân provincie fryslân
Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Bundes- und Europaangelegenheiten und Regionale Entwicklung
Interreg Deutschland – Nederland