



NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

The IMC IC is pleased to officially launch its website and at the same time the publication of its first issue of the International Council for Intelligent Maritime Corridors Newsletter.

BACKGROUND TO THE FOUNDING OF THE IMC IC

From a historical perspective, the planet has been navigated by all the seas according to a large number of trade routes. Today, thanks to the advancement of knowledge and the implementation of new maritime infrastructures, it is possible to use maritime trade corridors with more efficient flows of goods. Each corridor has a history of trade relations and its own technical and technological developments, among which we now find corridors that are much more advanced than others in terms of logistical and technological performance. Some of these maritime corridors are veritable highways and technological crossroads of international transport.

We are now witnessing a considerable industrial and societal evolution due to digitalisation, new technologies and the energy transition. Intelligence must be implemented in all segments related to transport activities, from the source of a product to the final users and traders: ports and terminal operators, ships, pilotage and navigation, local and international maritime traffic management, logistics chains for the supply of goods by means of intelligent transport.

Financial, technological, environmental, safety and security, interoperability and supply chain resilience issues are weighing heavily on the global economic market and forcing the major players in the maritime industry to review their business models. We must design new designs for ship propulsion, as well as new technological solutions that will allow for greater advances in intelligence systems. We must aim to reduce operating costs, reduce the consumption of fossil fuels, gradually use green and renewable energies and accelerate the use of disruptive technologies: robotics, artificial intelligence, etc.

Strategic alliances are being created on the global chessboard of the maritime industry. New business solutions are proposed in order to develop creative synergies, new expertise, new projects, new products, new standards and new services at the cutting edge of knowledge and communication technologies, digital technology and artificial intelligence. These new alliances between shipyards, shipowners, port authorities, and national government regulatory bodies constitute fertile industrial innovation ecosystems in terms of new experiments, collaboration, information sharing, collective testing of concepts and decision-making instruments.

Several noteworthy innovation initiatives are now references that influence decision-making, particularly those of major asset managers who are now placing climate change and sustainable development at the heart of their responsible investment decisions in the most promising innovation ecosystems.

Since 1964, more than six decades ago, IMO member countries have been working to develop the conditions for the deployment of next-generation, intelligent and autonomous ships. In recent years, however, the challenges of decarbonization and the optimal adoption of new communication and digital technologies have led the IMO and several other international organizations to accelerate the pace of work in this promising area of business for governments and industry.

The qualitative and quantitative assessment of the potential market of the new international maritime economy of the 21st century, based on current scientific and technological advances, is risky. Nevertheless, well-informed analysts turn their attention to the dynamics of the multiple innovation poles, most of which are established within the Asian and North European maritime corridors, to put forward figures and their list of the best in the leading pack.

The five most dominant and attractive maritime cities in the global innovation market are: Singapore; Rotterdam; London, Shanghai; and Tokyo. The most innovative maritime companies listed in the world in 2024 would generally be from these same continents. The global financial market for the research and innovation industry, design, construction and operation of smarter and more autonomous next-generation ships would be valued at \$US 85 billion in 2020 and would be at \$US 165 billion in 2030 according to an annual growth projection of 6.8%.

Obviously, the stakes in terms of business opportunities and economic development are considerable for countries or regions that are among the most advanced on the international scene. The leadership race has been underway for a number of years internationally to capture the economic potential of this new market, and Canada can already position itself with the IMC IC to participate very actively and take full advantage of it.

CONTINUATION AND LAUNCH OF THE IMC IC STRATEGIC WORK

Reminder of the Intelligent Maritime Corridors Concept

According to the International Council for Smart Marine Corridors (IMC IC), a Intelligent Marine Corridor (IMC) is a trade corridor where all operations are optimized by a digital architecture and a common regulatory, technical and technological reference framework for all users.

A IMC catalyzes the productive meeting of multiple actors and their networks – innovative and connected – who use new decision-making instruments to coordinate, integrate, share strategic information, and jointly develop new business solutions in favor of a digital transformation and an accelerated energy transition of the national and international maritime economy.

A IMC encourages a structural change whereby goods and people are loaded on next-generation maritime vessels designed to be cleaner, smarter, autonomous and highly safe, more effective in the fight against climate change and in the protection of marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems.

The Board of Directors (BOD) of the IMC IC welcomes a new director and a new member organization.

At its Board of Directors meeting held on May 15, 2025, the IMC IC was proud and honoured to welcome Ms. Marie-Anne Lambert as its fifth Director. Ms. Lambert has an exceptional academic and professional background and we are convinced that she will enrich the organization's strategic thinking. We warmly thank her for her commitment to the development of the industry.

In addition, the IMC IC is particularly pleased to have recently signed two new collaboration agreements and to welcome the Great Lakes Pilotage Authority under CEO Mr. Jean Aubry-Morin, and the SDG Network under the chairmanship of Erik Valiquette to our innovation ecosystem.

Advisory Committee (AC) endorses first IMC IC Strategy Table

At its second meeting held on May 26, 2025, the IMC IC Advisory Committee took note of a project submitted by Alain Godard and Marie-Anne Lambert of the Board of Directors, relating to the work of a working group on digital twins. The exchanges were very in-depth and constructive. The Board approved the project.

The Digital Twin Strategic Table of a Intelligent Marine Corridor

At its first meeting on June 26, 2025, the Digital Twin Strategy Table launched its work. This major project aims to enable users of a digital twin of a IMC to optimise complex data processing and risk management operations in maritime transport as well as the development of innovative technological solutions with a view to interoperability and intermodality of transport. The first test bed for this project will be the majestic and very long Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Transboundary and Interprovincial Corridor.