

NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

The Intelligent Maritime Corridors International Council (IMC IC) is pleased to present the latest issue of its newsletter. This issue reports on the significant progress made in recent months and sets out the perspectives that will guide our next collective actions.

IMC IC STRATEGIC WORK

Publication of the Report of the Digital Twin Strategy Table

The IMC IC is pleased to announce the publication of the Report of the "Digital Twin" Strategy Table, completed in March 2026. This document is the culmination of a rigorous, collective process, led by multi-sectoral experts — from the maritime, academic, industrial, and government sectors — united around a common vision for the digital transformation of the infrastructures of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence (GL-SL) maritime corridor.

Summary of the work

As North America's fundamental economic artery, the GL-SL corridor is facing increasing pressures: accelerated digital transformation, climate change, fragile supply chains, and decarbonization requirements. The Strategy Table has established that the digital twin of an intelligent marine corridor is, in practice, a project ecosystem — public and private — with virtual models of ships, ports, locks, waterways, and logistics systems. This ecosystem, which is progressively interconnected and interoperable, is expected to produce rigorous predictive analyses, optimize operations and strengthen the resilience and international competitiveness of the maritime system.

The work highlighted the lack of a clear Canadian vision and defined the leadership and governance to guide the corridor's digitalization, as well as major challenges related to

data quality, availability, and interoperability. In response to these findings, the Table makes six structuring recommendations:

1. Establish Canadian leadership with multi-level governance.
2. Create a secure, accessible, and interoperable data space.
3. Establish and promote a culture of collaboration among stakeholders.
4. Integrate decarbonization and sustainable development objectives at the heart of the approach.
5. Catalyze flagship pilot projects to demonstrate the value of the approach.
6. Define a sustainable financing model to ensure the continuity of the work.

These recommendations are part of an ambitious roadmap, structured in three progressive phases to 2040, whose priority actions for the first phase (2026–2028) have already been defined.

Dissemination and strategic reach

The full report - A Digital Twin Ecosystem for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Shipping Corridor is now available to all IMC IC members. It will serve as a reference instrument to engage policymakers and investors, with the primary aim of promoting the formal adoption of the proposed recommendations by governments, regulatory authorities, academia, and all stakeholders in the corridor.

Outlook and next steps

The publication of this report marks the beginning of a new phase of mobilization. The IMC IC will develop a strategic communications plan and make the necessary efforts to build a sustainable collaboration that brings together all levels of government, regulatory authorities, researchers, innovators, and corridor users. The establishment of multi-level governance structures remains the essential condition for creating an enabling environment for innovation and sustainable transformation of the corridor.

Acknowledgements

The IMC IC expresses its sincere gratitude to all the members of the Digital Twin Strategy Table for their sustained commitment and valuable contributions. This work was carried out under the thought leadership of Alain Godard, administrator and project manager, with the active collaboration of Marie-Anne Lambert, administrator. The quality of the exchanges, the rigour of the analyses, and the shared vision expressed by each participant were decisive in the success of this collective approach. The IMC IC is grateful to them for the time, expertise and trust they have generously invested in the service of the GL-SL maritime corridor.

Link to the executive summary and summary report is on our website: cmi-imc.org

