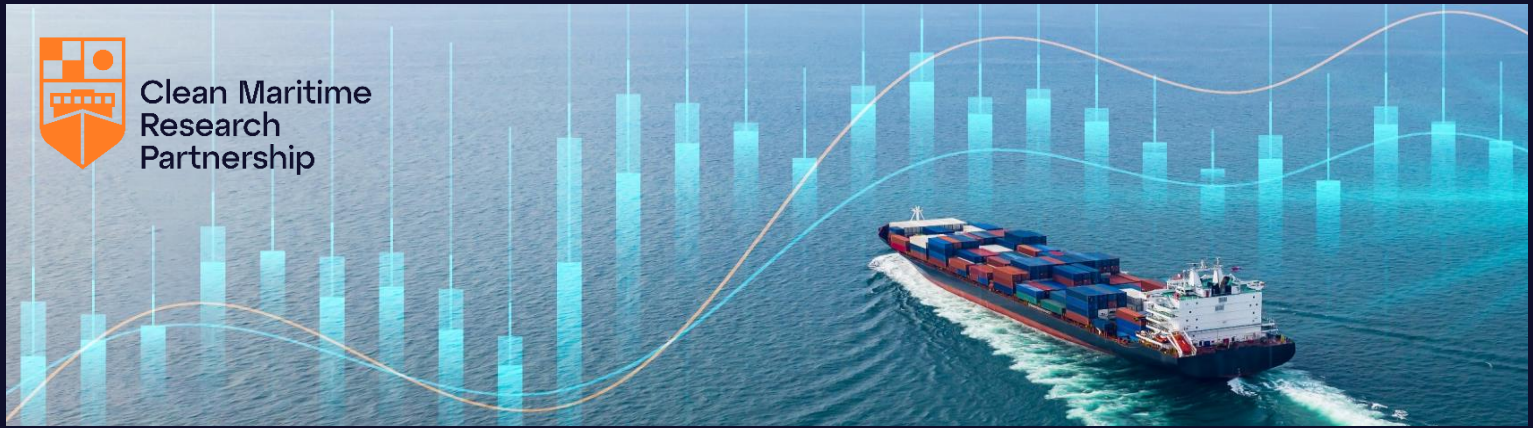




Clean Maritime
Research
Partnership



THE ROLE OF DIGITISATION ON THE DECARBONISATION OF THE MARITIME SECTOR

Introduction

On 1 February 2024, the Clean Maritime Research Partnership held a workshop on "The Role of Digitalisation on the Decarbonisation of the Maritime Sector" at Connected Places Catapult. The Clean Maritime Research Partnership is an integral part of the UK National Clean Maritime Research Hub (UK-MaRes Hub) as it was formed as a vehicle to bridge the gap between the academic research community and maritime stakeholders, with a view to co-creating a greener future for the sector. This workshop focused on the pivotal role of digitalisation in advancing the decarbonisation of the maritime sector.

The aims of the workshop were to:

- facilitate knowledge sharing and foster collaboration;
- map the digital landscape to identify the research needed to accelerate the decarbonisation efforts in the maritime industry;
- understand how best the academic community can support this.

We heard from:

- Mark Wray – Ecosystem Director for Maritime & Ports at Connected Places Catapult
Mark gave an overview of the Catapult's maritime-related projects.
- Justin Anderson – Director of the Digital Twin Hub at Connected Places Catapult
Justin shared details of the work the Digital Twin Hub have been undertaking related to Clean Maritime Activity.
- Eleanor Hadland – Director of Hadland Maritime
Eleanor spoke about her work on SMART Port Systems to Support Net-Zero Ambitions.
- Owain Brennan – Director of SeerBi
Owain presented on SeerBi's Data Science Lab for Maritime, as well as showcasing some key projects in their portfolio.

Workshop Summary

Working in small groups with colleagues from across the sector and academia, participants discussed topics such as:

- Digital technologies driving change
- Smart shipping and vessel optimisation
- Data-driven decision making
- Cyber-security and digital resilience
- Policy and regulatory considerations
- Skills development and digital technologies

Event Summary and Feedback

60 participants attended the workshop, from across the maritime sector and academia (including the facilitation team).

100% of attendees engaged in the interactive elements of the programme that were facilitated using Slido. Participants were invited to vote on future funding themes, post questions and share feedback in real time.

Feedback at the end of the event was sought in 2 ways.

1. Using a Slido open text poll
2. A post-event questionnaire was circulated.

Based on the Slido open text poll, attendees said:

"It was an enjoyable session, helped by everyone's willingness to engage and participate."

"Well organised and interesting event. Fair play!"

"An event with DfT after the publication of the clean maritime plan would be good."

"Thank you for organising, it is always good to meet academics and industry members interested in maritime decarbonisation."

"A contact database of members would be useful to enable ease of networking between events."

"Great networking."

And whilst responses to the post-event questionnaire were limited, they did provide quality feedback to be considered for future events, as shown below:

"The networking aspects were useful to find out where others are at, as were the speaker presentations."

"Possible more time for networking, though this might need to be reviewed regularly as it might need to decrease over time."

"The room felt at capacity, may need a bigger space next time."

"Some semi-structured networking would be beneficial e.g., delegates moving between tables."

"In the absence of the website just yet, clear information on the relevant representatives from the 13 universities and their roles would be useful."

"Nice to move future meetings around to other geographical locations."

"More industry-led discussions."

Thoughts going forward

Important to capture feedback during future events rather than post-event, given the limited number of responses this time around.

Conclusion

The workshop on "Accelerating Change: The Role of Ports in the Decarbonisation of the Maritime Sector" facilitated meaningful discussions, collaboration, and the development of actionable research recommendations to drive decarbonisation efforts in the maritime industry.

There is a clear directive from the community that collaboration between academia and the wider maritime sector is needed to accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices.

The recommendations developed during the workshop emphasise the need for supportive policies, targeted funding, and data-driven decision making to optimise port operations. Additionally, the workshop addressed the importance of safety and community engagement in promoting the adoption of new fuels. The CMRP remains committed to working closely with industry stakeholders, government, academic institutions and funders to fast-track decarbonisation efforts across the sector by embracing innovation, cross-sectoral learning, and knowledge exchange to create a cleaner, more resilient maritime industry for the future.