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THE HULL INSPECTOR PROJECT: AN INVESTIGATION OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING OF SHIP HULLS

Joseph M. Buckley[1], Bruce Blakeley[2], Doug Breeze[2], David Parramore[3], Ioannis Seisakis[4], Dimitrios Korres[4]

[1]Sonatest Ltd, Milton Keynes, England
[2]TWI, Cambridge, England
[3]TSC Inspection, Milton Keynes, England
[4]Zenon, Athens, Greece

ABSTRACT

[N.B. This is not a final abstract, It has not yet been approved by the project consortium, It is supplied only for assessment of possible inclusion in the conference. A final approved abstract will be supplied as soon as possible]

Ship hulls are large, and necessary inspections for corrosion and weld cracking are laborious and time consuming. The ideal would be to have an autonomous robt which can carry out these inspections automatically, and if possible, while the ship is in the water.

The Hull inspector project was conceived to investigate some of the necessary technologies to progress toward this aim. A ‘crawler’ was developed, capable of accommodating a wide range of inspection techniques, including standard and phased-array ultrasound, magnetic flux leakage, and alternating current field measurement (**ACFM**)

This paper will outline the approach taken in the project, discuss what was achieved (and what was not) and detail some of the lessons learned from it.