

EIGHTH SHIP CONTROL SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM

BY

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The eighth in the series of the Ship Control Systems Symposia was sponsored by the Netherlands MOD and was held in the Hague, 6-9 October 1987.

The venue for the Symposium was the Congress Centre in the Hague where the inaugural session was opened by Dr W. F. van Eekelen, The Minister of Defence for the Netherlands, to an audience of over 300. In his address he welcomed all the delegates and expressed his country's pleasure in hosting the event, again underlining the high regard in which this symposium is held internationally.

The U.K. support was considerable in that 90 participants from industry and MOD attended and 27 U.K. papers were presented. In all, engineers from 15 countries were present.

The first technical session was chaired by Commodore J. M. Veltman, R.N.N., and this consisted of the overview papers from the four organizing countries, Netherlands, Canada, U.S.A. and U.K. These papers set the national scenes and addressed the theme of this symposium which was 'Recent developments in ship integrated, distributed control and surveillance systems'. The U.S. paper by Andrew Mazzeo is published elsewhere in this journal¹. It was clear from the papers that digital technology was a preferred method of implementing the ever-increasing demands of control and surveillance. Additionally, as the traditional areas of propulsion machinery control and surveillance had been satisfactorily dealt with, other plant would soon be encompassed into a total Integrated Platform Management System.

The second technical session was chaired by Rear-Admiral R. A. Isaac, the senior MOD U.K. representative. This session contained four papers, one each from the Netherlands, Canada, U.K. and Denmark, giving a truly international flavour to the somewhat diverse individual topics.

The third and final session of the day was chaired by Mr Walter Blumberg of the U.S.A. who was one of the original committee which set up these symposia in 1966. The theme of the three papers presented covered the digital control of stabilizers and included Rudder Roll and Fuzzy Logic approaches to the task.

To complete the first day, all the participants to the symposium were invited to a formal reception by the Burgomaster and Aldermen of the Hague held in the Municipal Museum where new-found friendships were developed further.

The remainder of the symposium, except the final session, required decisions to be made every 90 minutes as the sessions had to be run in parallel to accommodate the presentation of a total of 68 papers. The presentations that I attended were well presented and stimulated a lively question period which often extracted more pertinent facts than the author intended, but adding to the total information exchange.

The organization of the technical sessions and the libations of coffee during the breaks between sessions, which in themselves have great value for the exchange of ideas and opinions, provided an excellent framework within which individuals could pursue their particular forte.

In keeping with the tradition of the symposia a banquet was held on the evening of the 7 October in the Congress Centre. Rear-Admiral C. R. van den Berg, Director of Materiel, R.N.I.N., was the principal speaker. During his speech he stressed the value of the symposia in promoting international understanding coupled with friendship in this rapidly changing application of new technology. He commented upon the surprising commonality of problems encountered by all nations.

The symposium was brought to a formal close at a valedictory ceremony at lunch on Friday by Commodore J. M. Veltman. Here he formally handed over the symposium gavel and block to Mike Gawitt representing the U.S.A., who will be sponsoring the Ninth Symposium to be held in 1990. Once again this three-yearly gathering of experts and practitioners in the application of Control and Surveillance Systems to the needs of machinery in the marine environment was voted a great success by all concerned.

Three papers presented at the Symposium are printed in this *Journal*^{1, 2, 3}. For those who wish to read the other papers in detail, complete copies of the Proceedings of the 8th Symposium, and also of the 7th Symposium, are held in the libraries of R.N.E.C. Manadon, Foxhill and University College London. Also the symposium participants who attended from H.M.S. *Sultan*, H.M.S. *Thunderer* and MTU have their own copies. Any reader outside these organizations can obtain a complete set from the symposium organization care of Mr A. C. Pijke, CMO, Postbus 21873, 3001 AW Rotterdam, The Netherlands, for a price of 100 guilders.

References

1. Mazzeo, A., and Vanderdray, J.: U.S. Navy ship control systems; *Journal of Naval Engineering*, vol. 31, no. 1, June 1988, pp. 179-183.
2. Clements, D. J.: Digital control and surveillance—system design and application; *Journal of Naval Engineering*, vol. 31, no. 1, June 1988, pp. 171-178.
3. Eastaugh, P. R., and Cochrane, R. P.: Simulation—the independent assessment of new control and surveillance system designs; *Journal of Naval Engineering*, vol. 30, no. 3, pp. 593-603.