

【欧州】【海事】

The utilisation of drones in maritime transport: EMSA improves maritime emission monitoring by contracting new remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS)

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【概要 : Summary】

The introduction of the 0.1% sulphur limit for marine fuels in SECAs of the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and English Channel in 2015 and even more so the upcoming introduction of the new global sulphur cap on 1 January 2020, has risen concerns regarding the control of compliance of ship owners and operators. In order to further improve maritime surveillance capabilities of European agencies and Member States, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) has secured four contracts for maritime surveillance services based on remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS). The utilisation of RPAS is considered a viable method to find non-compliant ships.

The EMSA RPAS services assist the marine surveillance operations of the EU Member States' authorities in connection to the inspection of vessels regarding their compliance with sulphur limits when sailing in SECAs. In future, they will also be used for the control of compliance with the global sulphur cap in 2020.



source: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/emsa-homepage/2-news-a-press-centre/news/3413-pr-rpas-contracts.html>

【記事 : Article】

While at EU level, the first ever EU-wide rules for civil drones of all sizes were introduced in September 2018, in order to define the basic principles to ensure safety, security, privacy, data protection and environmental protection, RPAS are also used in maritime surveillance. The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) utilises drones or RPAS for several tasks. Besides coast guard functions regarding the monitoring of illegal fishing, anti-drug trafficking or other illegal activities as well as maritime patrol and search and rescue, EMSA utilises RPAS for emission control monitoring and for detection of marine pollution and response support. Used as a complementary tool in the overall surveillance chain by manned maritime patrol aircraft and vessels, the EMSA's RPAS service will be able to measure the sulphur content in the plume emitted by a vessel by using SO_x sensors. It can therefore help to estimate the sulphur contents of the fuel burnt by the vessel. Based on the percentage of sulphur identified, it allows Member States to possibly target inspections to see if further follow-up is required.

Regarding the monitoring and response support of marine pollution situations, which require day- and night-time operations, long endurance RPAS are used with appropriate sensors that allow an automatic observation pattern, navigation for target tracking

and identification of potential polluters, and for oil spill characterisation (size, thickness, subparts, etc.). RPAS currently available have an endurance ranging from 6 to 12 hours, and weight from 25kg to 235kg. Most recently, EMSA secured four contracts for maritime surveillance services based on remotely piloted aircraft systems. These contracts will provide increased maritime surveillance capabilities to European agencies and EU Member States within the context of their coast guard functions.

While EMSA has already been providing RPAS services since 2017, these new contracts come in direct response to increased user demand for night and day maritime surveillance, oil spill detection, and gas sensors (“sniffers”) to measure the amount of SOx in a plume emitted by a ship. Additionally, all RPAS are equipped with AIS sensors to have a complete picture of vessel movements and distress sensors to be able to react in emergencies.

According to EMSA’ s Executive Director, Markku Mylly, these new RPAS contracts strengthen further EMSA’ s maritime surveillance capabilities. EMSA is now able to offer extended support to national authorities executing coast guard functions, such as maritime pollution and emissions monitoring among others. The new RPAS services will also provide EMSA with more emissions monitoring capacities, in order to better control the vessel operators’ or owners’ compliancy with the sulphur limits, in particular when considering the entering into force of the new global sulphur limit in 2020. The RPAS services are offered by EMSA free of charge to EU Member States, Candidate Countries and EFTA Member States, as well as to Member State Authorities through the European Agencies FRONTEX and EFCA.

References:

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