

DFDS, Shipdex projekt

2018-2019

Background

Ships are becoming more and more complex to maintain, due to the increasing amount of on-board systems. In order to ensure that ships are maintained optimally, the ship owners use different databases to keep track of when and how the equipment is to be maintained, which spare parts are to be used for which maintenance jobs and management of equipment certificates.

The data quality in these databases is often far inferior to the manuals that come with the systems when purchased, as it is difficult to "import" paper and pdf's into these databases. The consequence is an unnecessary high level of administration, both on board, in the shore organization and with suppliers, as well as an unnecessary high risk of errors and thereby increased costs.

Project

Today, there is a protocol that makes it possible to describe a technical manual in a structure that gives the ship owners the opportunity to import information directly into their IT systems. This standard is called ShipdexTM (Shipdex).

The Shipdex protocol has been around for a long time but has for different reasons never caught on. None of the ship owners have requested manuals and data as Shipdex files from the suppliers, as none of the shipping companies' IT systems can efficiently import and process Shipdex files.

The overall purpose of the project has been to reduce administrative burdens and optimize the operation of ships, via smart digitalization of manuals and processes. This has been done through development of import functionality for Shipdex, by making available sample data from leading suppliers, by active engagement in development of the Shipdex protocol and by development of an online Shipdex export tool.

The project has through the demand of Shipdex files, as well as the development of purchasing and maintenance systems on the shipping side, created knowledge of and a stronger incentive for equipment manufacturers to supply Shipdex files and to develop their systems. The accessibility to Shipdex files from different suppliers was difficult in the beginning of the project, as it was not clear what the potential and the future demand was. Through numerous meetings with leading suppliers, knowledge on Shipdex has been promoted and the willingness to supply Shipdex files for the benefit for both Ship owners but also for suppliers themselves have grown.

Data can either be imported for one vessel, or be imported as master data to be shared to multiple vessels or entire fleet. The data imported contains; equipment details, maintenance schedules, spare part information and documentation.

Evaluation shows huge benefits for ship owners and suppliers, especially when fully implemented on entire vessel or fleet. Shipdex import functionality ascertains reception and recording of correct data and best possible equipment maintenance is secured together with a dramatic decrease in person hours necessary. In addition easy tender process, e.g. for new building, is ensured by supply of standard and easy comparable component and spare part data.

Shipdex export and generation

During the project it was difficult to get Shipdex files from a number of suppliers. Main problem was lack of knowledge on the format and how to generate Shipdex files as well as the potential or benefits in supplying Shipdex data from a supplier perspective.

Due to that fact it was agreed to expand the work to also include an export module. Suppliers will by use of an online module in the future be able to generate Shipdex files in an easy way by simply following the guide and filling in the fields in the web form. The tool will lower the entry barrier for suppliers dramatically and will make it possible for even the smallest suppliers to generate and supply Shipdex files to Ship Owners and Shipyards on request.

The export tool and further information is found here: <https://shipdex.inextia.dk/login>

Project communication and other actions

DFDS and Logimatic have during the project been actively engaged in the Shipdex Protocol Maintenance Group and have presented Shipdex and the project at a number of conferences and meetings.

The project have been in dialogue with BIMCO who is working with Shipdex and has an ambition that contracts for newbuildings – NEWBUILDCON – always includes a clause that makes it a requirement for the yards to deliver all information and documentation about the new ship using Shipdex.

In addition the project partners have had a number of meetings with engine manufacturers and other key maritime suppliers on the possibilities and potential in Shipdex.

Ship owners that did not participate in the Shipdex project will be able to learn and benefit from the project, as Shipdex files are now wider known and more accessible. Ship owners that use systems from one of the participating IT suppliers will have direct access to developed functionality and everybody will have access to the online export tool.

For further information on the project please contact:

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