

Joint Industry Projects: the lifeblood of the industry

Joint Industry Projects (JIPs) are an essential source of communication with our clients. Essential, because the meetings and discussions surrounding the initiation of a JIP create a mutual understanding of capabilities and interests.



A JIP initiative like OWME (On-board Wave and Motion Estimator) brings together academic skills, MARIN's measurement-technology, as well as its experience, to provide a system that is capable of the prediction of ship motions up to one minute ahead. This is very valuable information for e.g. helicopter landing operations and for the hook-up of cryogenic LNG cargo transfer systems between ships. The industry has given a clear indication of its interest in this development, recognising the need to have safer helicopter operations and the need to have open sea, cryogenic load transfer, in sea conditions high enough to allow the economic viability of the operation.

Anticipating the growing interest in LNG operations offshore, MARIN organised a one day symposium in Wageningen addressing the research need, concepts and requirements, for the LNG transport chain. About 100 participants from the industry were present and MARIN chose the occasion to launch the OWME JIP initiative, as well as a proposal for the criteria development for partially-loaded LNG tanks (eLeNGia).

The crucial role of the interaction between client groups and MARIN is demonstrated by an

initiative from the DEEPSTAR consortium, which considers the suitability of model scale tests for mooring systems in very deep water (10,000 ft). This is much deeper than any present model test basins allow for. Validation model tests have been proposed in MARIN's Offshore Basin for combined analysis. These include truncated, mooring system modelling and computational methods.

Another category of projects which involve wide-scale industry groups are joint research projects where technological institutes and research centres join forces to develop new modelling techniques for their own use, such as those for CFD, risk-based design and green water phenomena. Examples of such initiatives are VIRTUAL, Safe-DOR, Comflow-2 and Moonpool VOV.

The above examples show how the processes related to JIPs contribute to the enhanced efficiency of the research and technology development chain. Innovations can be brought to market in a faster way and find wider acceptance due to this organised, information exchange structure, to the benefit of all parties involved.

Helicopter operations on offshore vessels could use decision support for touchdown.

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