

*“Autonomous container ships? Not in my lifetime.”*

February 2018  
Soren Skou (age 53),  
CEO of Maersk

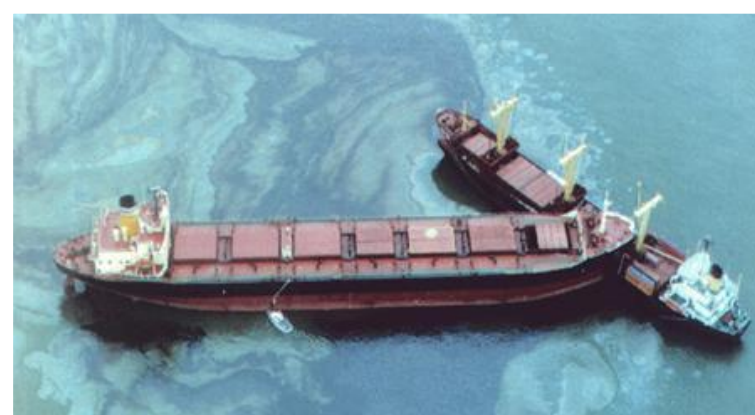
*“World's first autonomous  
shipping company  
announced in Norway”*

April 2018

# Challenges and business potential of autonomous cargo ships

Robert Hekkenberg  
Associate Professor  
Delft University of Technology

# Why sail autonomously??



# Challenges



Why don't we simply copy this?



# Challenges



VS



# Challenges

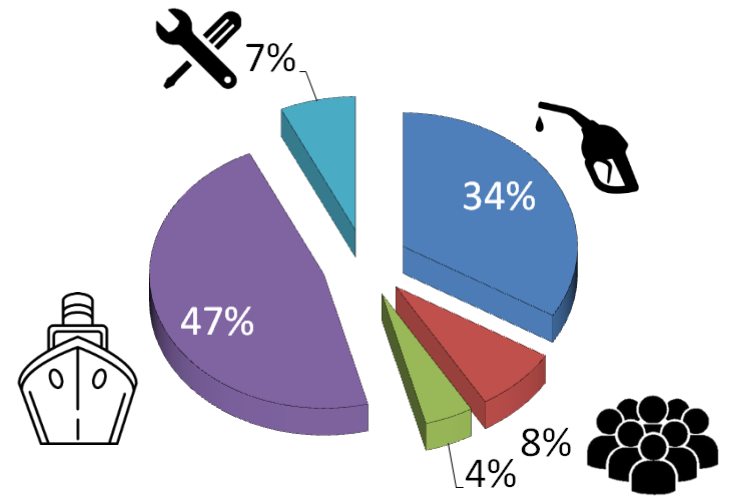
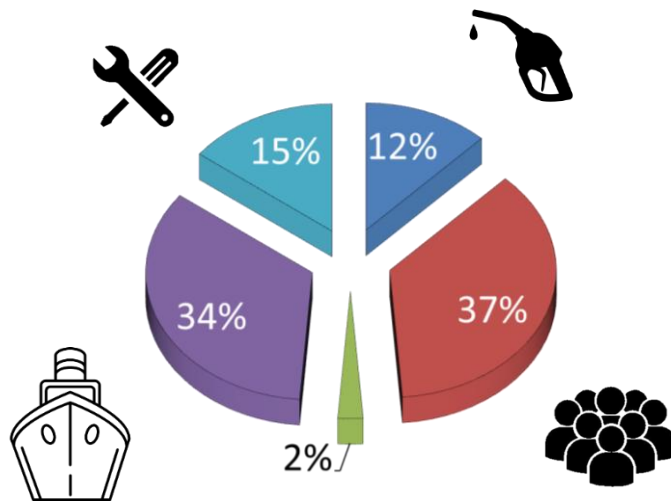


# Challenges





# The future (?)



# The future (?)



# The future (?)



# Summarizing

Autonomous shipping will **only** happen if we can replace the functionality provided by the crew without increasing costs.

This appears to be most likely for short sea shipping. For large oceangoing ships prospects are poor.

Do we dare to introduce autonomy in confined and crowded waters?

Maybe a small crew is better than no crew.