

Dear Francis,

On behalf of DanPilot, the Danish national pilotage service provider, we are pleased to introduce our Remote Pilotage initiative — a formally regulated and operationally tested concept which transitions pilotage from onboard execution to a shore-based environment, conducted from a dedicated Navigation Control Center (NCC).

Remote Pilotage, as conceptualized by DanPilot, aims to **maintain or exceed the safety levels of conventional pilotage** by leveraging advanced digital infrastructure, enhanced situational awareness tools, and rigorous human-centric training programs. The project has been developed in close cooperation with industry partners (e.g., Maersk and Danelec) and with guidance from the Danish Maritime Authority. Since the issuance of **Executive Order No. 401/2024**, we have successfully conducted numerous trials — including operations With and without a pilot physically on board — under a structured and government-approved test regime.

Our concept is built around four integrated pillars:

1. A certified technical setup combining vessel-based VDR integration and satellite communication (VRS backbone).
2. Comprehensive training and audit programs for both remote pilots and bridge teams.
3. A procedural and operational model based on best practices from VTS, incorporating SMCP, closed-loop communication, and IALA-recommended message structures.
4. Communication via a trust building communication platform with graceful degradation with video link, voice, chat with integrated message marker chat function and possibility of live knowledge sharing.

We believe the Remote Pilotage concept presents **parallels and synergies with VTS operations and MASS frameworks**, particularly in the areas of:

- **Situational awareness at a distance**
- **Maritime decision support through shore-based actors**
- **Digital communication and redundancy protocols**
- **Cybersecurity in navigational data exchange**

In this context, we respectfully ask whether IALA would be open to formally engaging in the **standardization, documentation, and guideline development** of Remote Pilotage in a manner akin to IALA's valuable contributions to **VTS (e.g., G1138, R0103)** and **MASS-related guidance**.

DanPilot welcomes the opportunity to share our experiences, test data, safety assessments (e.g., HAZID reports), and operational procedures. Our goal is to contribute constructively to an internationally aligned Remote Pilotage framework, benefiting from IALA's deep expertise in navigational safety and systems harmonization.

We remain at your disposal for further dialogue, presentations, or submission of documentation. A joint working group, observer status, or even an IALA Task Group designation could be meaningful steps forward in maturing this field safely and transparently.

We look forward to hearing whether IALA would consider joining or initiating work in this domain, and we remain ready to engage on all levels.

Yours sincerely,

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