Every few years, the Knowledge Centre organizes a meeting with a selected sounding board group in order to exchange information and gather feedback from end users of our research activities. On 22 March 2018, a meeting was held to discuss new facilities for model testing. The meeting was organized at the Greenbridge innovation and incubation centre in view of the construction of the Flanders Maritime Laboratory in Ostend. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what the new facilities could mean for end users or stakeholders, either directly by experiments or indirectly, for instance by providing input for software and/or manoeuvring simulations. A second more general purpose of the meeting was to discuss which aspects dealing with manoeuvring in shallow or confined water merit more attention in the near future.

The meeting was introduced by a detailed presentation of the Towing Tank for Manoeuvring in Shallow Water and the Coastal Ocean Basin. This was followed by a couple of pitch presentations from end users, highlighting the topics that could be studied in the new facilities. During the round table discussion, several aspects were discussed in detail. It was generally agreed that the ongoing scale enlargement of vessels is an important stimulus for the new towing tank, which will be able to accommodate 8 m long ship models thus allowing highly accurate experiments with the latest types of vessels. Other aspects, such as the behaviour of floating and stationary constructions at sea, estuary navigation, confined water, shallow water and the nautical bottom were also discussed. In general, it was felt by the participants that the new facilities are a very welcome asset and will play an important role in keeping the region up to date with new developments in the maritime sector. The meeting was concluded by a tour of the construction site.

Thibaut Van Zwijnsvoorde presented a poster entitled “Inland vessels as an efficient hinterland connection for Flemish seaports: future developments” at the VLIZ Marine Science Day, which was held in Bredene, Belgium on 21 March 2018.

On March 22, 2018, Evert Lataire gave a presentation of the Towing Tank for Manoeuvres in Shallow Water at the Belgian Offshore Days which were held in Ostend, Belgium.

Researchers associated with the Knowledge Centre recently published:


A first call for papers has now been launched for the 5th MASHCON conference, which will be held in Ostend, Belgium, on 20 – 22 May 2019. The conference will pay special attention to manoeuvring in waves, wind and current, but all topics related to ship manoeuvring in shallow and confined water will be discussed.

Papers which focus on the comparison between the output of numerical models and benchmark model test data are particularly encouraged. Specifically for the 5th MASHCON, model test data have been made available which were obtained during the execution of seakeeping tests with the DTC container carrier in the framework of the European SHOHERA project. The benchmark data are both captive and free running model tests with the DTC at full draft in calm water and in waves. These data, or other sets of benchmark data, are available to everyone on request.

Authors are invited to submit an abstract of 250 - 300 words to info@shallowwater.be before 3 September 2018. The official language of the conference is English and the abstracts will be reviewed by an international scientific committee. Once accepted, authors will be expected to write and present a full paper, which will also be reviewed by the international scientific committee. More information can be found on the conference website.

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