

KEEPING PORTS SECURE

SUPPORT (Security Upgrade for PORTs) is an integrated four year project within the EU's seventh Framework Programme which aims to help port stakeholders establish the security levels sufficient to meet evolving international regulations and standards which also work in the complexity of the real port environment.

As project co-ordinator, BMT is working collaboratively with the other partners to identify and develop new security upgrade solutions including new sensors and communications infrastructure. In a bid to tackle under-addressed issues facing ports such as underwater threats, SUPPORT will shortly be exploring the use of Underwater Autonomous Vehicles (UAVs) reaping the benefit from the expertise which was drawn from the recent SHOAL project.

A common issue with security solutions and UAVs is the high cost of systems. SUPPORT aims to overcome this by utilising intelligent algorithms and behaviour, in order to leverage as much as possible from low-cost sensors. The BMT team is aiming to have a prototype ready for the summer of 2013.

A distinct differentiator will be the UAV's ability to multi-task. Not only will it be possible for the UAV to act as a security system, but ports around the world could potentially utilise this intelligent machine to monitor pollution, conduct radiation testing or inspect the hull of a ship.

As well as developing artificial intelligence, BMT will design the UAV and work towards developing detection and tracking techniques with sonar imagery.

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