

## AUTONOMOUS SHIPS



Dr. L.R.Chary

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Dr. L R Chary, who is a marine electrical engineer by profession, took his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering, Master's Degree in Industrial Electronics and Control Engineering and Doctorate in Control Engineering and Automation from the VJTI, University of Bombay. His doctoral thesis was on a system for Nuclear Reactor Power control and Adaptive Autopilot and Guidance Systems for ships. Dr. Chary did a senior management programme at Henley U.K., on a Govt. of India fellowship, under the Colombo Plan Programme. Till 2006 he was the Executive Director/ Group General Manager of SCI, Mumbai.

Dr. Chary has to his credit over thirty research publications in various International as well as Indian Technical and Management journals and has presented papers at various conferences worldwide. Dr.Chary has authored a book in management science titled 'Corporate Transformation Without Tears'. In 1979 he was the Chairman of the International Ship Operation Automation Conference held in Tokyo, Japan. He is a recipient of the 'Achievement Award' presented by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), U.S.A. for original work in 1974, a special award given by the Institution of Engineers (India) for outstanding contribution in 1975 and the H.S. Rao Memorial Award given by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) in 1993, 2011 and 2014. As a visiting faculty member, Dr. Chary has guided Post Graduate research students in the faculty of Electrical Engineering of the University of Bombay at VJTI. Dr. Chary has been a member of the Advisory Technical Committee of the Lloyd's Register of Shipping, London, Chairman of the Ship's Electrical Equipment Standardization Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards and a member of the Project Review and Steering Group of the Dept. of Electronics, and the Dept. of Science and Technology of the Govt. of India. Dr. Chary is a member of the Institution of Engineers (India) and the Institute of Marine Technologists and a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India). He was a member of the Tamil Nadu Maritime Board and a Trustee of the Madras Port Trust. At present Dr. Chary is a member of the Board of Research and an Adjunct Professor & PhD guide of the Indian Maritime University. He is an independent director of Reinenergy Infratech Pvt. Ltd., Noida and an advisor to Greenshore Energy Pvt Ltd, Bangalore.

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**Abstract:**

A new kind of ship is taking to the seas making the maritime fraternity wonder what to make of it. Is it safe? How will it get along with other vessels and smaller crafts in the vicinity? Will it really shake up the maritime transportation business? What impact will it have on the seafaring profession? Is there a legal framework in place to allow autonomous shipping? These are some of the questions demanding answers about autonomous shipping. But the most intriguing thought that is crossing the minds of maritime professionals is whether autonomous shipping will happen at all and if so, how soon? This paper presents an overview of the current status of development and the possible pros and cons of this apparently fanciful mode of maritime transportation.

