



## Press Release

Berlin/Wildau, 29 November 2023

### **AutonomSOW II research project successfully completed**

#### **Information platform makes transport on inland waterways more predictable**

Over a period of approximately 36 months, six partners from industry, associations and research have developed and tested a digital information platform, the aim of which is to facilitate the planning of transport processes on waterways. The platform derives important information from waterway, traffic and transport process data for the efficient integration of the waterway into multimodal transport processes and makes it automatically available to the players involved in the transport process via various media. The research project was funded by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport as part of the mFUND innovation initiative with around 1.5 million euros.

The project consortium consisting of Alberding GmbH (consortium leader), Berliner Hafen- und Lagerhausgesellschaft mbH (BEHALA), the Federation of German Inland Ports (BÖB Bundesverband Öffentlicher Binnenhäfen e. V.), the Department of Design and Operation of Maritime Systems at the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin), the Institute of Communication and Navigation of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and LUTRA GmbH (Port of Königs Wusterhausen) presented the results of the project at the end of November 2023.

Project manager Jürgen Alberding emphasised: "The information platform brings together heterogeneous data and provides users with a flexible tool for voyage planning. The voyage is planned in detail according to the ship's dimensions, cargo and lighter utilisation. The integration of lock opening times and notices to skippers means that current changes in the navigability of the waterway are taken into account."

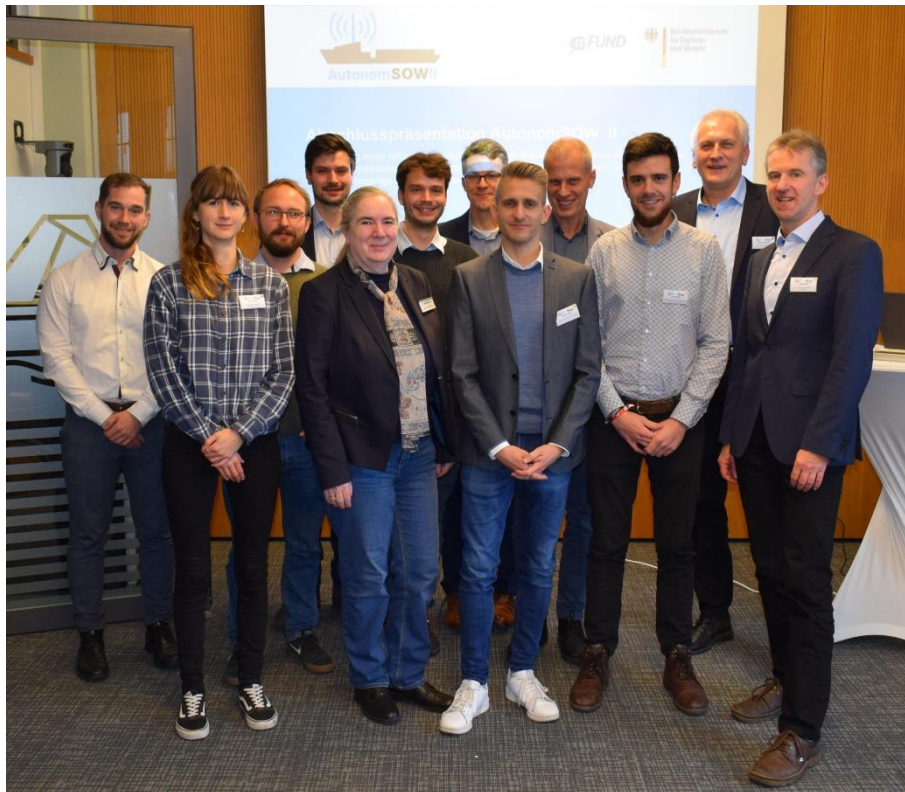
Under the guiding theme of "Bringing waterway transport into the digital world", the final event emphasised the importance of reliable and accessible data bases. At the beginning of the project, the focus was therefore on the acquisition and validation of heterogeneous data from different sources and their transfer to a suitable database structure. This included the implementation of interfaces to data sources and services of the Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV) such as "ELWIS" and "EuRIS".

Methods and solutions for real-time data acquisition from the waterway were developed to expand and update the database. The work focused on the acquisition of lock and bridge contours from the ship's side, the acquisition of engine and environmental data from the ship, and the accurate determination of the water level using a solar-powered buoy equipped with sensors.

Practical examples were used to demonstrate the benefits of the platform from the perspective of a port operator. The automated notifications of delayed ship arrivals or the arrival of intermediate destinations provide valuable information for cargo handling planning. Shipping companies can use the platform to obtain an up-to-date overview of the ship fleet and optimise loading with regard to the bridge clearance heights provided.



Together with the Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW), Alberding GmbH will further develop the information platform in the mFUND project RUBIN with regard to traffic and discharge depth forecasts. The focus will be on traffic on the Rhine and the Wesel-Datteln canal.



Conclusion of the AutonomSOW II research project: On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the project consortium presented its project results in Berlin's Westhafen. Photo: Alberding GmbH

Further information on the project can be found at [www.autonomsw.de](http://www.autonomsw.de).

About the BMDV's mFUND:

As part of the mFUND innovation initiative, the BMDV has been funding data-based research and development projects for the digital and networked mobility of the future since 2016. The project funding is complemented by active professional networking between stakeholders from politics, business, administration and research and by the provision of open data on the Mobilithek. Further information can be found at [www.mFUND.de](http://www.mFUND.de).



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