

Collision Avoidance work group

First meeting, San Antonio, 27 Sep 06

Present:

Andy Brooks
Bill Calhoun
Steve Grindrod
Stein Harvardstein
Angus Jamieson
Dave McRobbie
Wayne Philips
Benny Poejono
Regis Studer
Jim Towle
Harry Wilson (group leader)

Apologies:

Nil

The main objective of this first meeting was to agree on the scope of the project.

A proposal was made that we limit the scope to probability of intersection calculations, excluding consequences of collision and resultant risk. The argument being that the latter considerations are not necessarily within the competency of the WP TS, and in any case we want an objective that is achievable in a reasonable time scale.

The proposal was accepted by the Group.

It was also agreed that we take a three stage approach as follows:

- Education
 - Bibliography
 - Lexicon
 - Description of current methods
 - Followed by details of strengths and weaknesses
- Review of current methods
 - Recommend best practices
 - with explanations and exceptions
- Investigate novel techniques
 - Describe, comment and recommend

Some time was spent discussing current methodology and establishing a common understanding within the Group. There was also some discussion about the name for the Group. Although not an important issue, it was thought desirable that the name should reflect the scope of our project. Some suggestions were subsequently put to the main meeting of the WP TS. The majority were in favour of "Collision Avoidance", which has been adopted on the basis that common recognition and understanding of the phrase probably outweighs any considerations about precise alignment with our objectives.

SPE WP Technical Section

It was agreed that some progress on the first objective should be made before our next meeting in March, resulting in the following Action Items:

1. Review Andy Brooks' draft bibliography and recommend additions as appropriate (All by end Jan 07)
2. Write draft lexicon and circulate within group (HW by end Nov 06)
3. Add to lexicon as appropriate, particularly Company specific terms and definitions (All by end of Feb 07)
4. Provide release for TOTAL's summary of commonly used methods for distribution within group (DMcR, BP, HW, other? by 13 Oct 06)
5. Dependent on above, distribute version of document within group (RS by end Oct 06)
6. Produce first draft of Description of Current Methods (HW by 15 Dec 06)
7. Respond with corrections and additions for consideration (All by end Jan 07)

As part of the discussion on defining best practice, Harry Wilson raised the question of whether the use of closest approach calculations and numerical reporting of proximity resulted in the same outcome as the use of Travelling Cylinder calculations and diagrams.

Action Item:

Compare both methods in same circumstances and report to Group (HW for next meeting)

It is desirable that we move quickly from describing the current situation to saying something about more advanced and more efficacious methods. Therefore the first objective of our next meeting should be to finalise the Educational objective, possibly ready for posting to our web site. We should also start, and hopefully complete, the second objective of recommending best practice from the current common practice.

Because of the very direct connection between collision avoidance rules and personnel safety, the Group agreed that when published, the documentation should include some form of disclaimer.