

FOUNDED 1860 INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1910 AND 1960

**THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS
LONDON BRANCH**

Hon. Secretary.: Ms. Lourdes Elona-Lilley (Nina), CEng FRINA

Phone: +44 7479 639770

Email: london.rina44@gmail.com



THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

**“SANDWICH PLATE SYSTEM (SPS)
A STRUCTURAL COMPOSITE”**

By

IAN NASH

BUSINESS MANAGER, SPS TECHNOLOGY, LTD

MEETING IS VIA WEBINAR AT 18:00 HOURS

REGISTER AT THE BELOW LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd6prj0pG92Jf7fgpEe1-heS4aBj0bl->

Structural maintenance on vessels is growing, both in terms of demand and complexity - this requires a new, innovative approach, and an overhaul of decades-old approaches to vessel crack repair, to unlock cost, time, environmental and safety benefits.

Repairing the cracks present on a vessel's critical structural components forms a key part of structural maintenance, which preserves asset integrity, ensures seafarer safety and the safe passage of cargo.

- The global shipping fleet is aging. New stress points are emerging on existing vessel structures as a result of retrofitting and refits - work that is vital in prolonging the life of a vessel and ensuring cost-effective compliance with environmental regulations. These factors mean the demand for structural maintenance, including crack repairs, is greater and more complex than ever before
- For many years, crop and renewal has been used to address cracks on vessels. While effective, the process involves extensive steel renewal which is costly, time consuming and comes with heightened risk and time out of service
- With the average age of the world merchant fleet continuing to grow there is likely to be an increased scope for structural repairs to address vessel cracks, with associated costs and time out of service both key concerns

In this paper we will examine how the combination of these factors suggests an overhaul is required in the maritime industry's approach to vessel crack repair. While repair techniques have remained static for many years, structural composites such as SPS Technology's Sandwich Plate System (SPS), which has a 20 year track record in the industry, offer a cost competitive alternative that's fast, non-disruptive and delivers improved strength, compared to conventional steel structures.