

## The future of circularity in maritime: innovation forecasts

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Roskilde Universitet

## **Future of... circularity**

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### Expertise:

- Strategic foresight
- Sociology of science and technology (STS)
- Maritime & ocean economies
- Scenario-based strategizing
- Open innovation
- Business model innovation

**Roskilde University**  
Assistant Professor & Fellow



**Aarhus BSS, Aarhus University**  
Post-Doctoral Fellow



**Danske Maritime**  
ePhD Fellow



**PERISCOPE**  
Project Manager



**CIFS**  
Foresight Analyst



# applied foresight toolbox

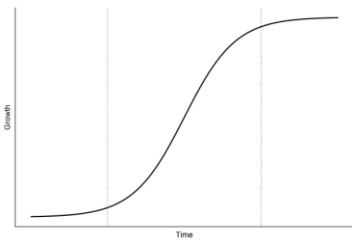


SCIENCE SPECTRUM	STRATEGIC PRIORITY	OFFERING TYPE	TARGET SEGMENTS	OPERATING MODEL	CUSTOMER FACING	SECURITY
<b>FULL SPECTRUM</b> Broadest range of offerings, including basic research, applied research, and development.	<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY</b> High strategic priority, often linked to national or global challenges.	<b>OFFERING TYPE</b> Highly innovative, often involving new business models.	<b>TARGET SEGMENTS</b> Broad, often including government, academia, and industry.	<b>OPERATING MODEL</b> Highly flexible, often involving multiple partners and funding sources.	<b>CUSTOMER FACING</b> Often not directly customer-facing, but may involve industry partners.	<b>SECURITY</b> High security, often involving sensitive technologies and data.
<b>PROFESSOR</b> Individual researchers or small teams, often funded by grants.	<b>COST LEADERSHIP</b> Low cost, often funded by grants or government.	<b>COMPONENT</b> Often a single component or technology, often developed in isolation.	<b>SECTORAL AND MARKET</b> Often sectoral, often involving government or academia.	<b>ACQUISITION</b> Often through grants or government funding.	<b>PROFESSOR</b> Often not directly customer-facing, but may involve industry partners.	<b>SECURITY</b> Low security, often involving open research and data.
<b>STARTUP &amp; SCALE</b> Startups and scale-ups, often funded by venture capital or government.	<b>PROFESSOR</b> Individual researchers or small teams, often funded by grants.	<b>PLATFORM</b> Often a platform or ecosystem, often developed through collaboration.	<b>SECTORAL AND MARKET</b> Often sectoral, often involving government or academia.	<b>ACQUISITION</b> Often through grants or government funding.	<b>PROFESSOR</b> Often not directly customer-facing, but may involve industry partners.	<b>SECURITY</b> Low security, often involving open research and data.

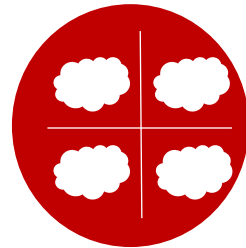
Strategy playboxes



Systems analysis



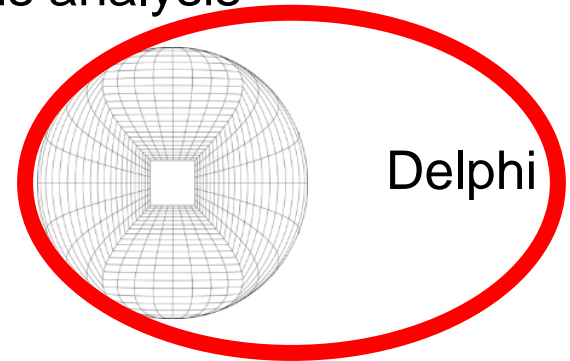
Technology forecasting



Scenarios

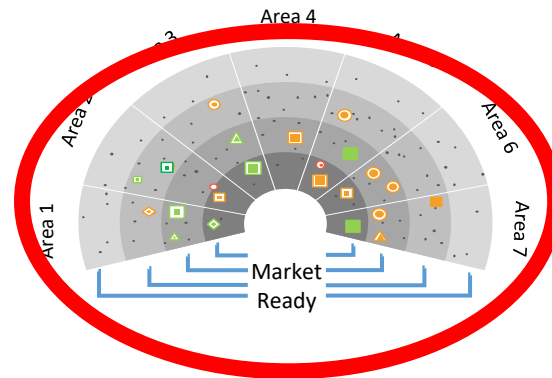


Wargaming

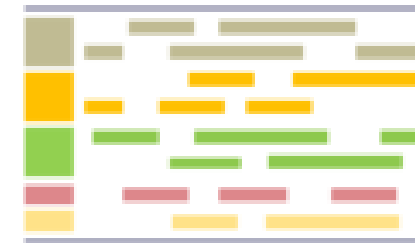


Delphi

Foresight radars

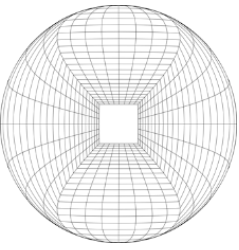


Technology roadmapping

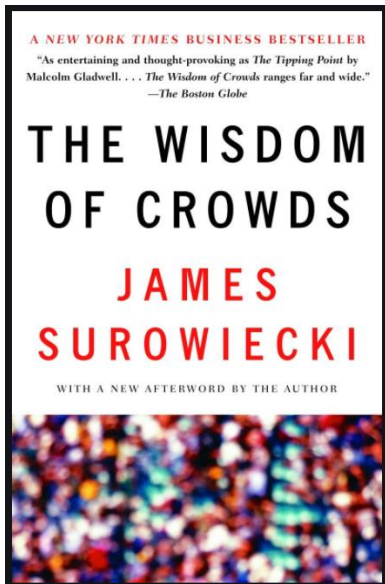


Trend auditing

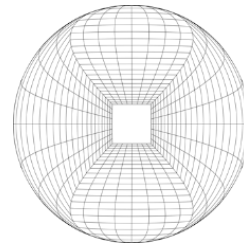




# Method: wisdom of the crowd



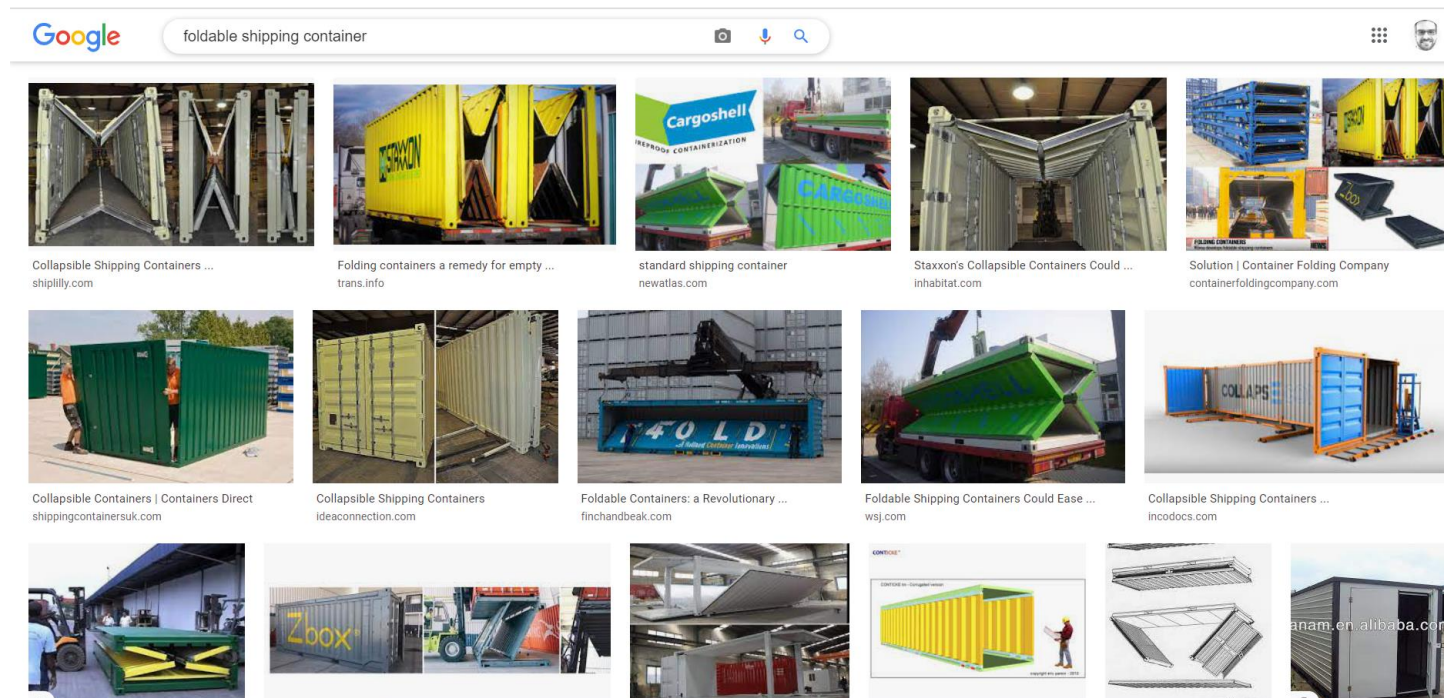
Paradoxically, the best way for a group to be smart is for each person in it to think and act as independently as possible



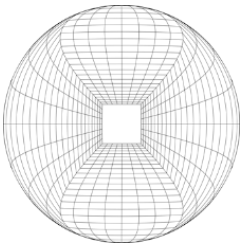
# Innovation forecast prompting

“please estimate how many years from now, that accomplishing [task A] with/by [technology B] will become...”

- ...an accepted practice.
- ...commercially available.
- ...a viable alternative.



# Respondents' estimations and opinions



3

1

2



2020



2050

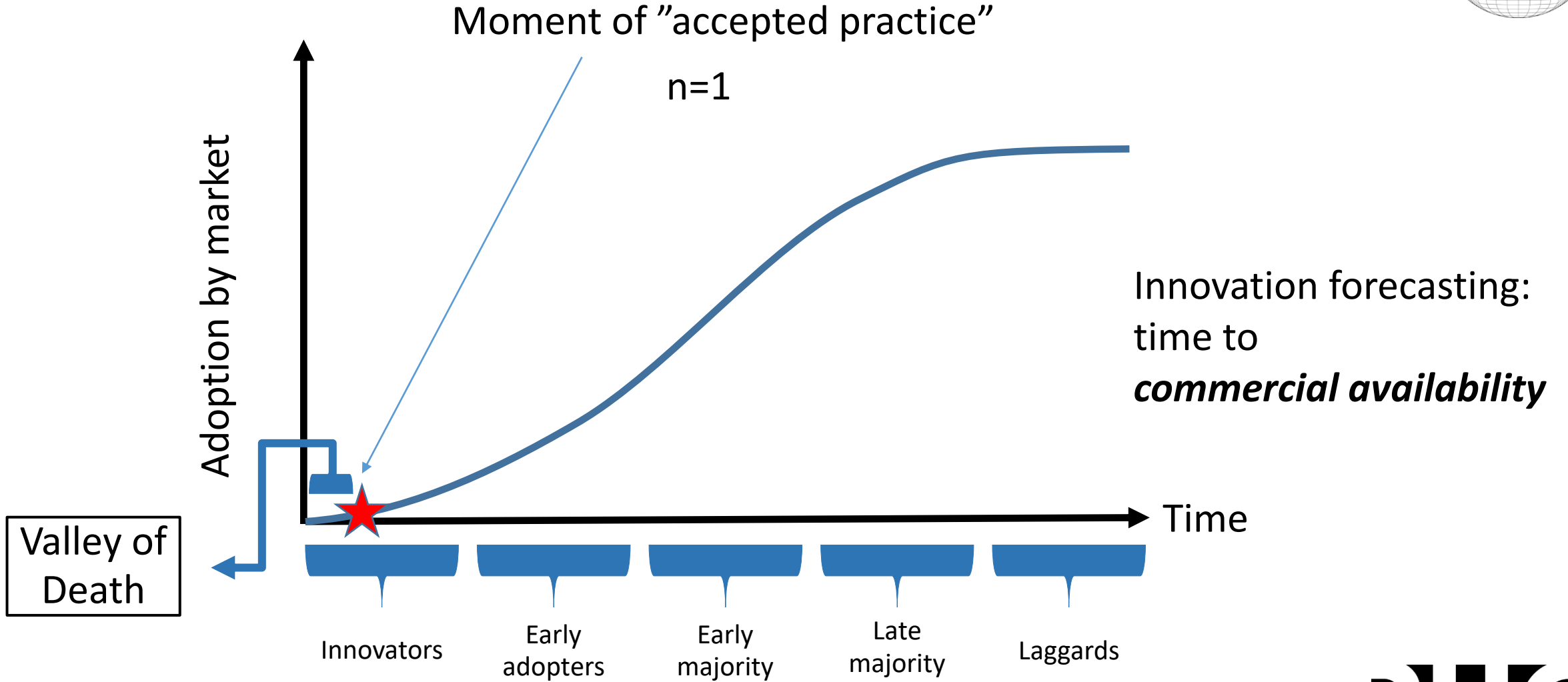
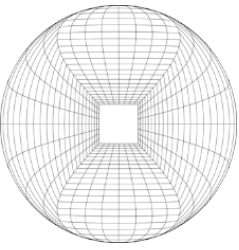


It's already here

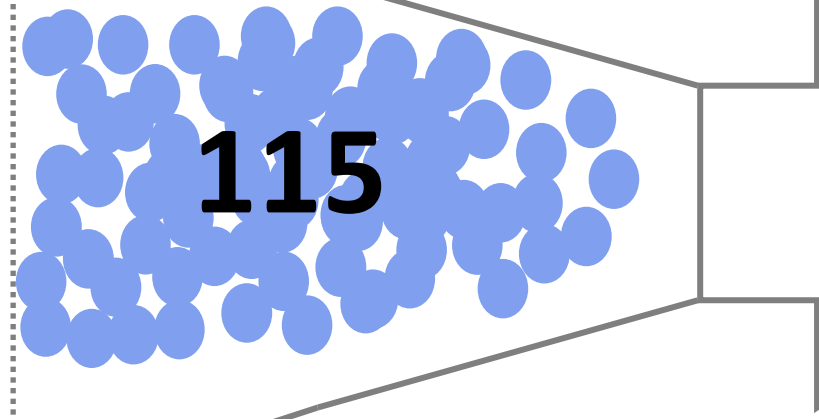
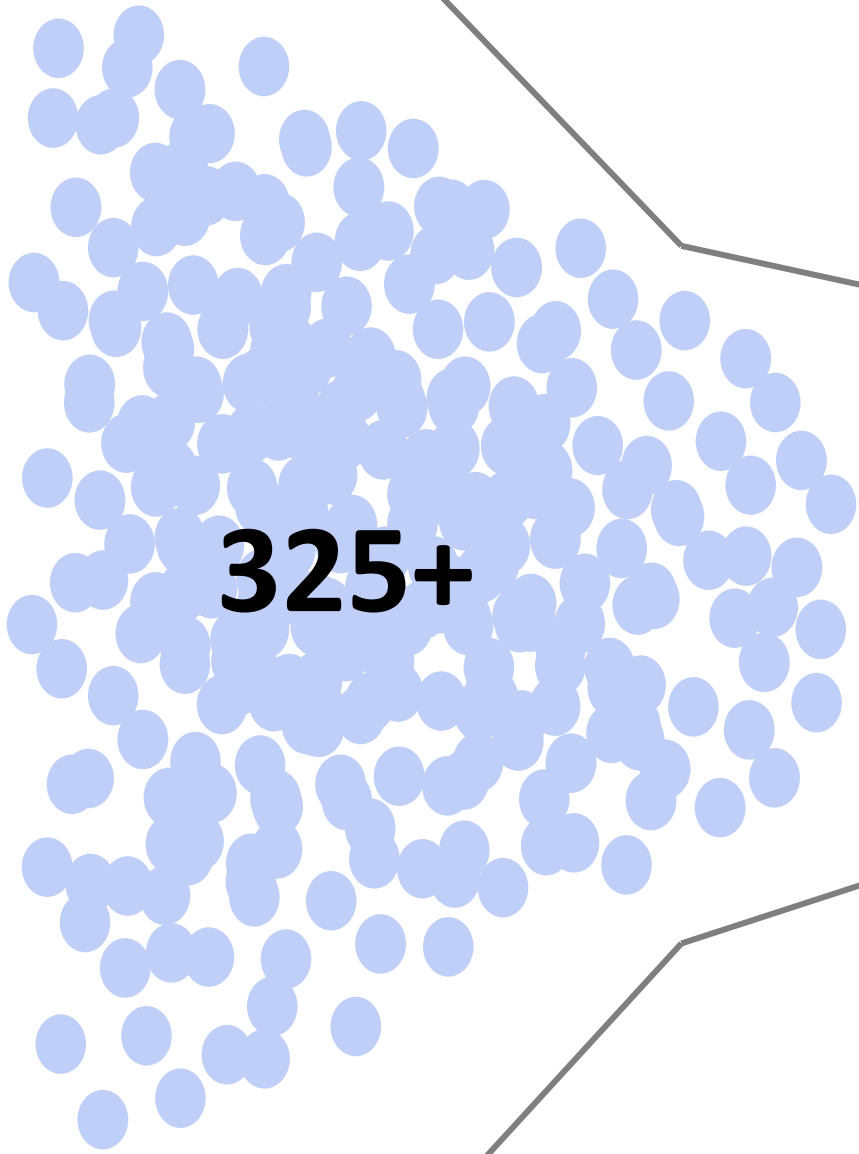
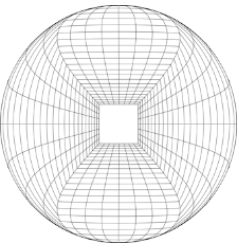
When it will happen

Never going to happen

# Technology diffusion curve







PERISCOPE  
entrepreneurial discovery





### Autonomous bird abatement

Offshore wind farms can lose up to 30% of production because of seagulls and other birds. Autonomous drones, which can fly in formation, could be used to deter birds from the turbines.



### 3D printing of turbine blades

Transport of wind turbine blades can amount up to 20% of wind park development costs. 3D printing turbine blades on-site on jack-up rigs would lower these costs.



### Wave-powered tsunami warning buoys

Combining tsunami detection with renewable wave energy could allow for more frequent transmissions and lower cost of manual battery replacement.



### Ship-to-ship energy transfer

Transfer of air between ships could go fully electric by using wave energy, and use surplus power to charge the electric vessels that make voyages out to the farm.



### Fully electric fish farm

Fish farms, located far out to sea, could go fully electric by using wave energy, and use surplus power to charge the electric vessels that make voyages out to the farm.



### Container stacking drones

Heavy lifting drones able to move containers around at port could reduce crane movements and make operation more efficient.



### Offshore oil platform decommissioning

Offshore oil platforms will be decommissioned. Knowledge base of best practices would lead to more efficient practices.



### Turbine blade cleaning drones

Cleaning wind turbine blades is a necessary procedure which is currently done manually. Automated drones could perform this service 24/7 while reducing risks and costs.



### Autonomous service vessels

An autonomous-unnmanned vessel can perform simple tasks - both construction and crew - to increase a vessel's operational efficiency.



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### Autonomous wind farms

Autonomous wind farms could adapt and move to avoid storms and generate more consistently than fixed or floating-moored turbines.



### Underwater data lasers

The development of lasers that could package and transmit data from the seafloor to surface vessels would improve robotic applications for un tethered exploratory voyages.



### Container lashing drones

Lashing containers is one of the most dangerous jobs in maritime. Drones can support this operation in a safer way.



### Offshore wind turbine maintenance

Offshore wind turbine maintenance is a complex task. On-site 3D printing and replacement of spares would improve efficiency.



### Offshore container terminal

Increasing size of container ships will outgrow port facilities. Offshore container terminals would provide space for unlimited growth and flexibility for ships.



### Recharging at wind

Offshore wind turbines could generate electricity to recharge the equipped vessels that set maintenance, reducing requirements and emissions.



### Ship hull laser

Ships or sending divers to clean hulls is a time-consuming, and expensive. Laser scouring would improve ability and efficiency.



### Offshore logistics hub

Co-locating a container terminal at an offshore wind energy park would be able to use excess electricity to desalinate water for hydrogen for powering feeder vessels.



### Digital vessel twin

A delivered digital twin of a built ship can be used to improve planned specifications to avoid mistakes for rework. Physical inspections are still needed.



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### Subsea drone charging

Charging of subsea drone platforms at offshore wind farms.



### Solar-powered charging vessel

A network of autonomous solar-powered vessels could provide on-site power for offshore wind farms.



### Lashing robots

Lashing and de-lashing is one of the most dangerous jobs in maritime. Robots can support this operation in a safer way.



### Laser pipe

Commissioning of offshore oil and gas infrastructure is a complex task. Laser pipe cutting would improve efficiency.



### Smart weather buoys

Online weather buoys could send real-time updates on weather and sea conditions to offshore wind farms.



### Drones de-icing wind turbines

Ice build-up on wind turbine blades lowers electricity production. Drones can remove ice safely.



### Drone inspection

Offshore platforms regularly undergoing inspections. Drones can perform these tasks more efficiently.



### Subsea robotic maintenance

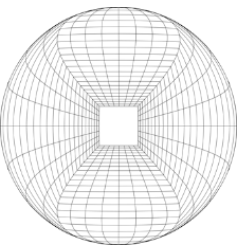
Offshore platforms need underwater maintenance on subsea systems. Robots can perform these tasks more efficiently.



### Offshore maintenance drones

Offshore platforms require inspection and maintenance. Drones can perform these tasks more efficiently.

# Maritime & offshore Foresight radar



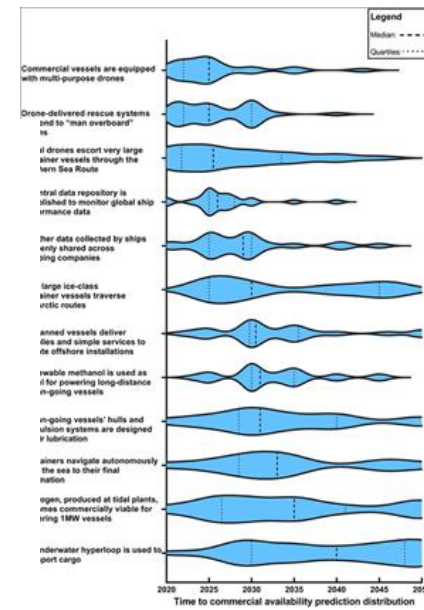
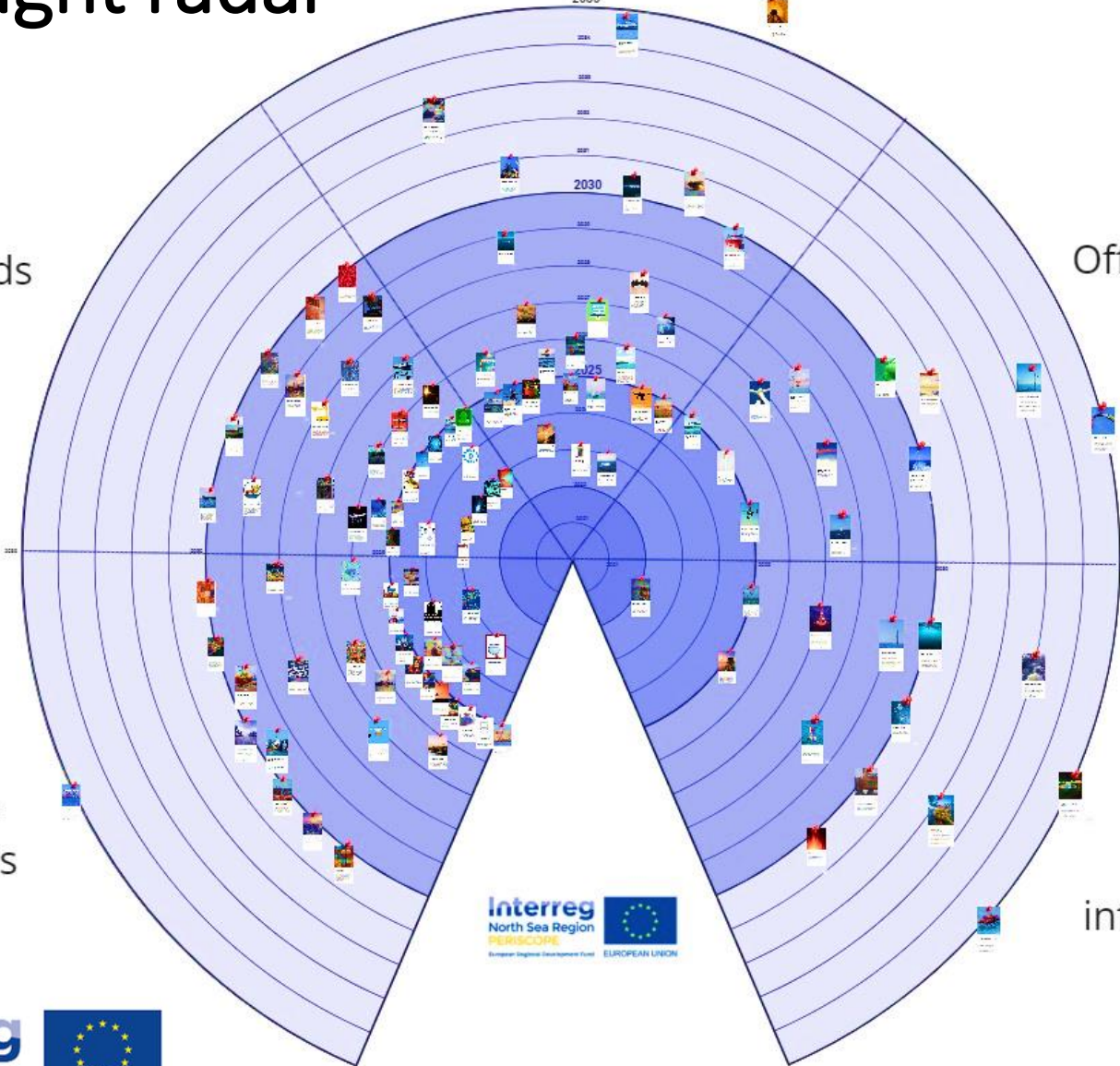
Maritime  
2035

Shipyards

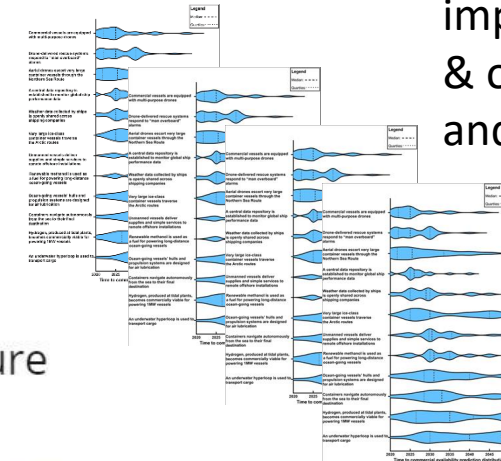
Offshore wind

Ports & terminals

Ocean  
infrastructure



**135+ Innovation concepts:**  
Technologies that will impact the maritime & offshore economies and when

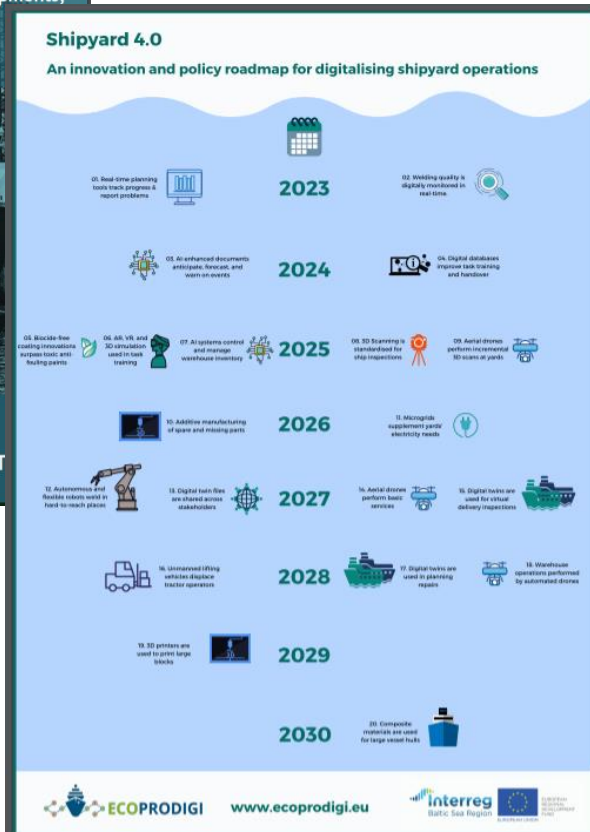
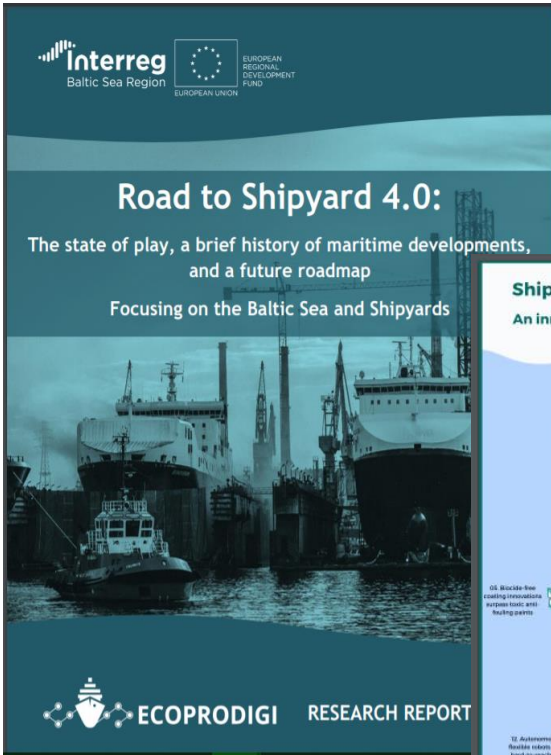


miro



# ROADMAP TO SHIPYARD 4.0

# ROADMAP INTEGRATED SHIP OPERATIONS



# RADAR THEMES

- Maritime
  - Ports
  - Shipyards
  - Offshore wind
  - Other infrastructure
- Autonomous systems
  - Circularity
  - Construction
  - Decommissioning
  - Digitalization
  - Drones and robotics
  - Maintenance and repair
  - Multi-use platforms
  - Ocean energy
  - Policy, standards, and regulations
  - Process optimization



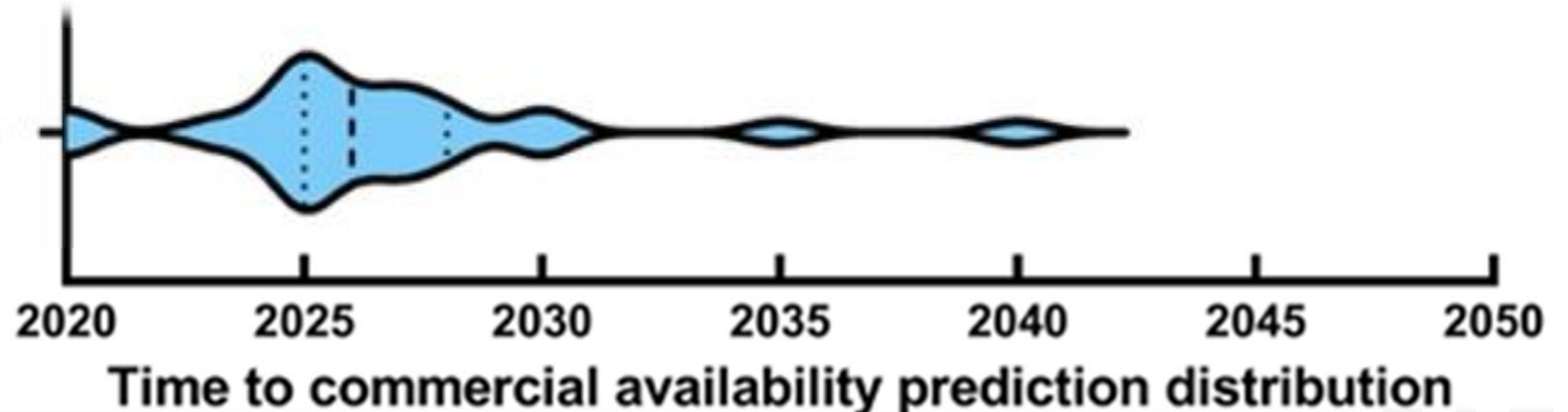


# INTERNATIONAL MRV: CENTRALIZED DATA REPOSITORY FOR FLEET

Maritime transport emits around 940 million tonnes of CO2 annually and is responsible for about 2.5% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Establishing a central data warehouse would require a standardization of the digital data file formats that national regulatory bodies can agree to. In turn, this can inform efforts to develop maritime carbon and emission trading schemes.

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2026	2025	July/2027	Dec/2031	8%	13%

A central data repository is established to monitor global ship performance data



**NOVEMBER,  
2020**

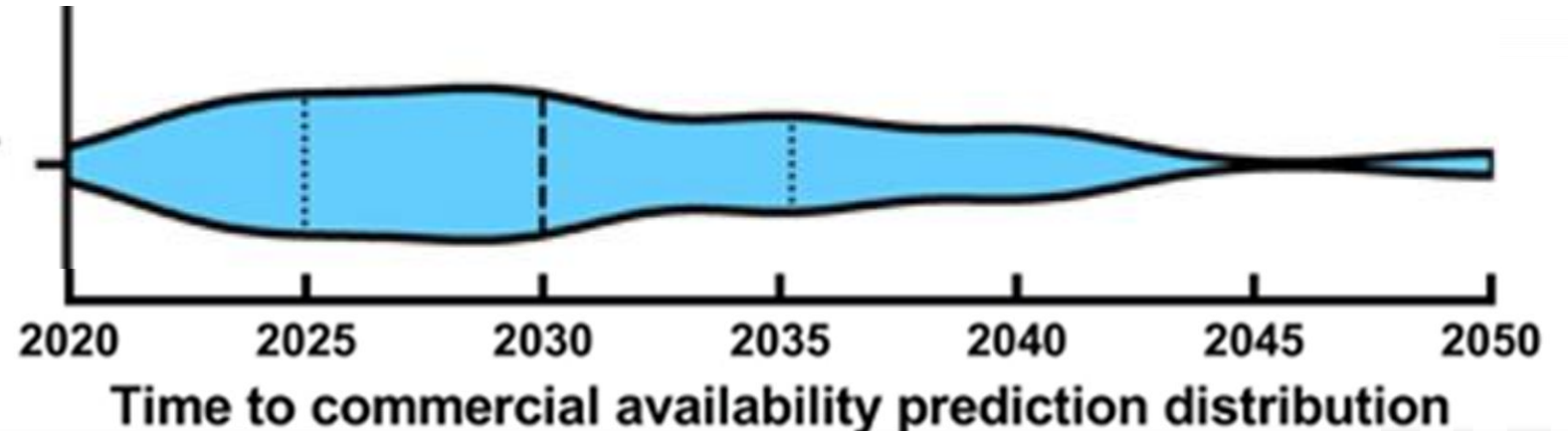


# COMPOSITE BULK CARRIER HULL

Fires and explosions are the third largest cause of vessel casualties and have resulted in 112 large vessel losses during the past decade. A single loss could see damages in excess of \$1bn. Although steel does not burn, it is a good conductor of heat and therefore spreads fire to adjacent compartments. Composite materials are of low density, low weight, high strength, are non-heat conductive, and highly resistant to corrosion and fire...

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2030	2030/2035	Jan/2032	Feb/2039	0%	0%

A large bulk carrier is built with a fire-proof composite hull



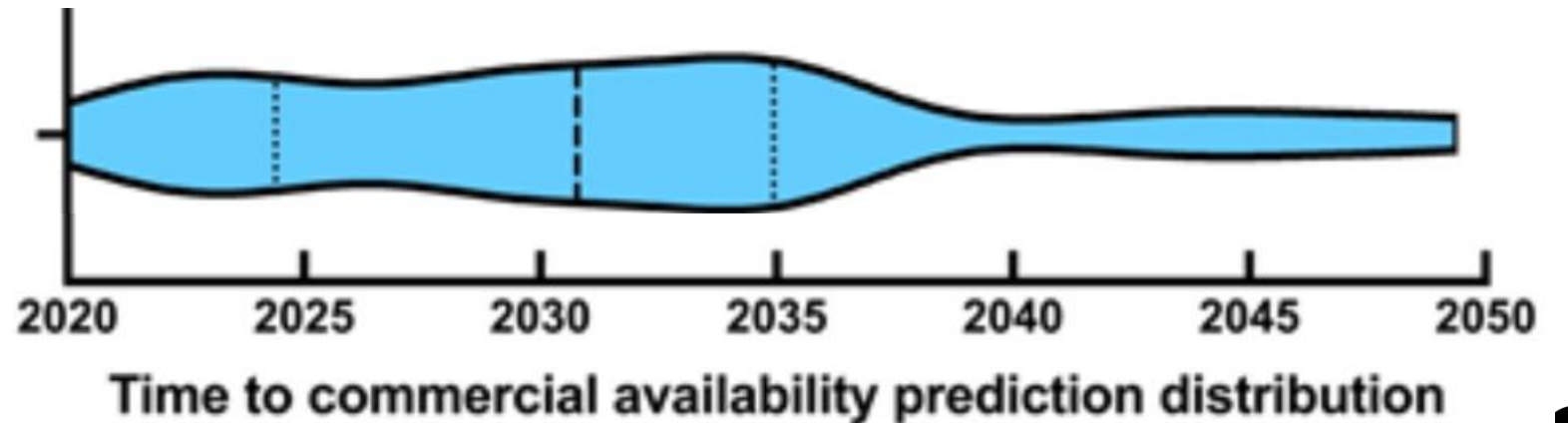


# 3D PRINTING TURBINE BLADES

Between 2020 and 2030, it has been forecasted that approximately 4,091 offshore turbines will be installed throughout all of Europe. [1] Counting the modern standard design of 3 blades each, we can anticipate that 12,273 turbine blades are needed. Transport of blades can amount to 20% of development costs...

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2031	2035	Jan/2033	Mar/2041	0%	10%

Turbine blades are 3D printed offshore at the sites of wind park development projects





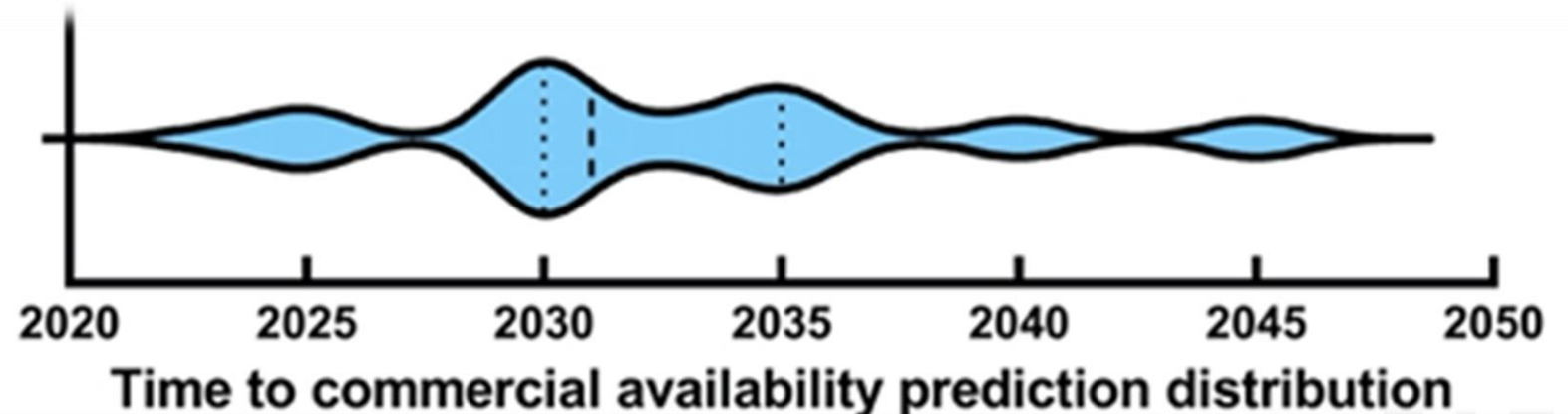


# RENEWABLE METHANOL TO POWER OCEAN GOING VESSELS

Ambitions for zero emission maritime operations by 2030 require new power sources. Renewable methanol is produced from an electrolysis process, powered from a renewable energy source. The process combines hydrogen with CO2 captured from the air or the emissions from an industry, making it carbon neutral.[1]...

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2031	2030	Jun/2033	Mar/2039	0%	0%

Renewable methanol is used as a fuel for powering long-distance ocean-going vessels



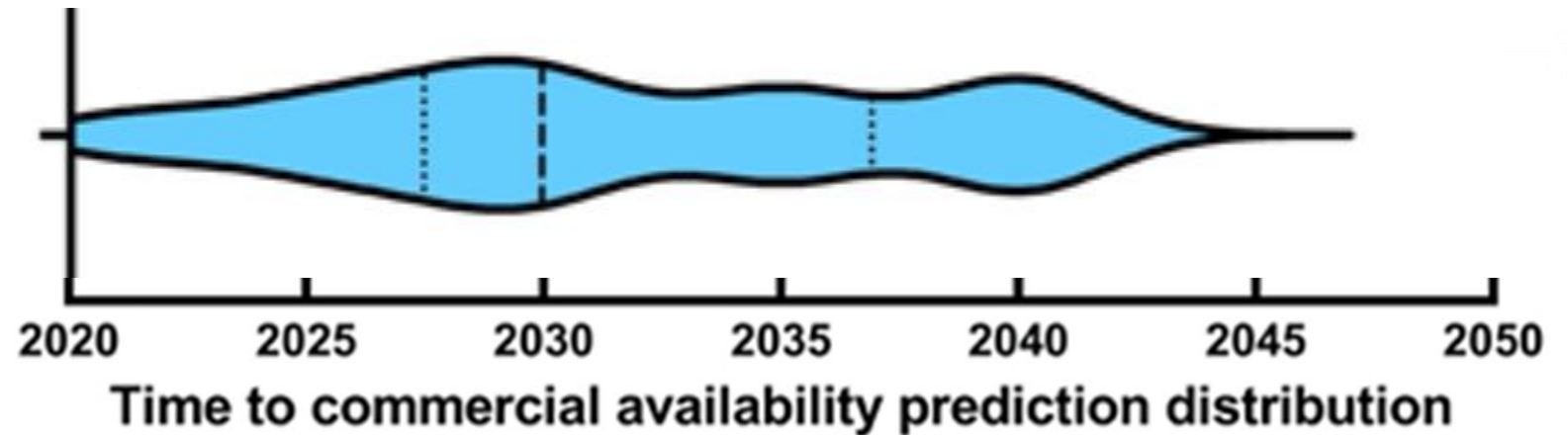


# MICROGRIDS AT LARGE PORTS

Ports are the sites of major pollution, where large vessels continue to run their engines even while at berth, and heavy-lifting work is being performed by diesel-powered cranes. As the maritime industry explores ways to decarbonize, microgrids that at ports can play a supplementary role to existing electric grids with an enhanced energy storage systems...

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2030	2030 (2040)	Jul/2032	Aug/2038	0%	0%

Microgrids are retrofitted into large ports



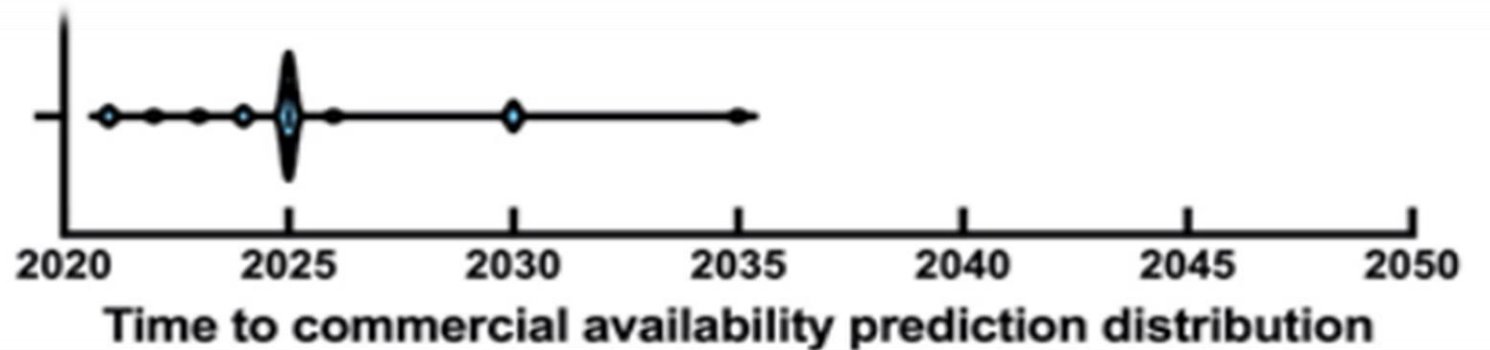


# CONTRACTS THAT INCENTIVIZE MINIMUM TIME AT PORT

When at port, ships keep their auxiliary engines running for electricity, resulting in unnecessary emission of pollutants and over \$18bn in fuel waste.[1] Estimates suggest that an eight-hour stay at port can emit 2.5 tonnes of pollutants.[2] Waiting time at ports increases when ships fail to arrive on schedule, causing systemic delays for other inbound vessels, trucks, and trains.[1] While penalties exist for late arrivals, there is little incentive for the port to process cargo faster...

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2025	2025	Apr/2026	Apr/2029	0%	0%

Contracts between ports and shipping companies are designed to minimize time at port



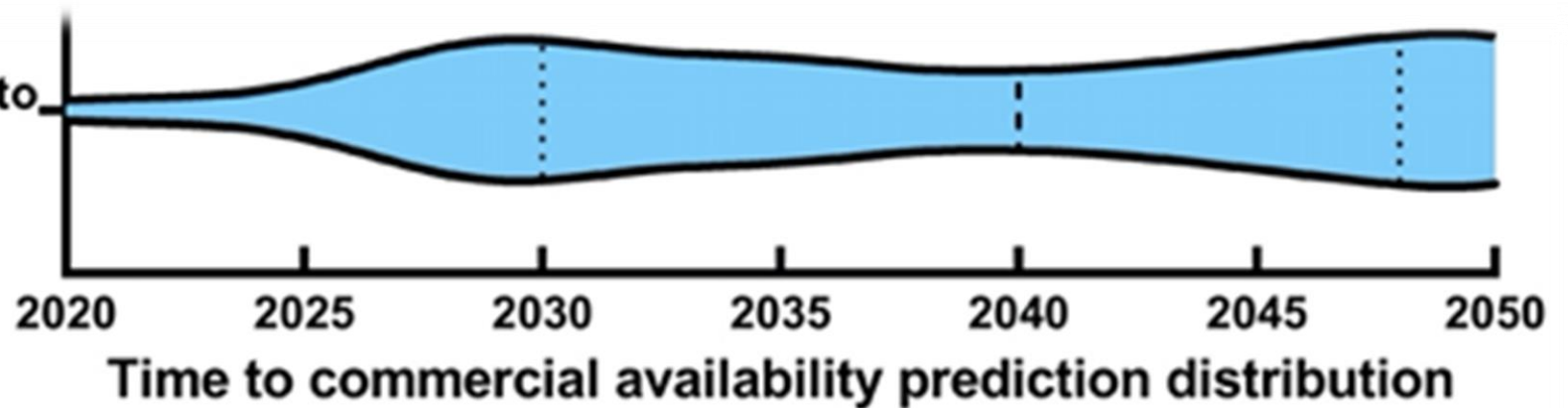


# CARGO HYPERLOOP

Hyperloop proposes using magnetized tracks to move goods friction-free through a vacuum-sealed tunnel. The speeds in these systems are aiming to reach 1,000 kilometers per hour.[1,2,3] hyperloop runs on electricity, and when powered by renewable energy, will contribute to advancing the decarbonization of transport...

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2040	2050	Jul/2039	Aug/2048	0%	4%

An underwater hyperloop is used to transport cargo



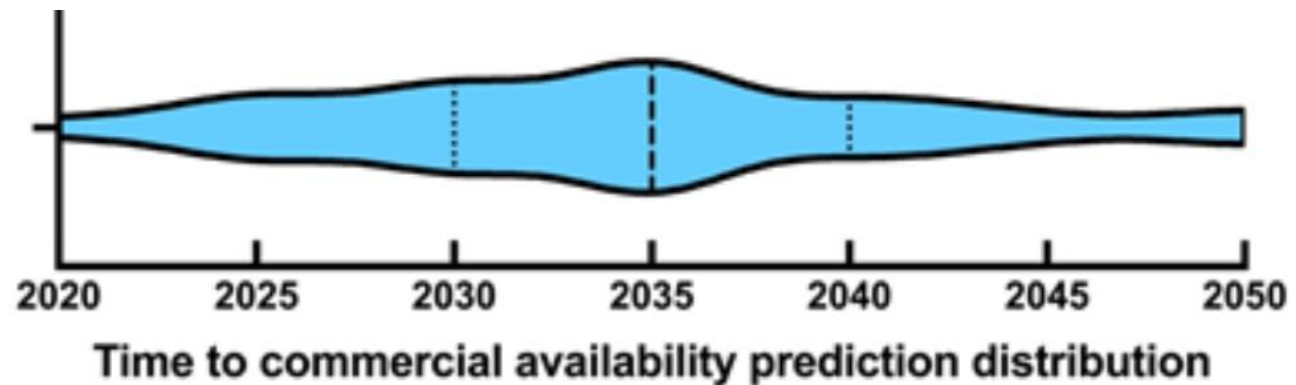
# OFFSHORE WIND KITE FARMS



At higher altitudes, the wind blows stronger and more consistently. Whereas windmills have yet to exceed 200m in height, wind kites are reaching 800m in the air. To produce energy from wind kites, the rope is connected to a generator on the ground or surface of the water. The kite then deflates as a motor reels in the kite closer and the process is repeated...

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2035	2035	Mar/2035	Dec/2042	3%	14%

Offshore wind kite farms become a viable alternative to offshore windmills



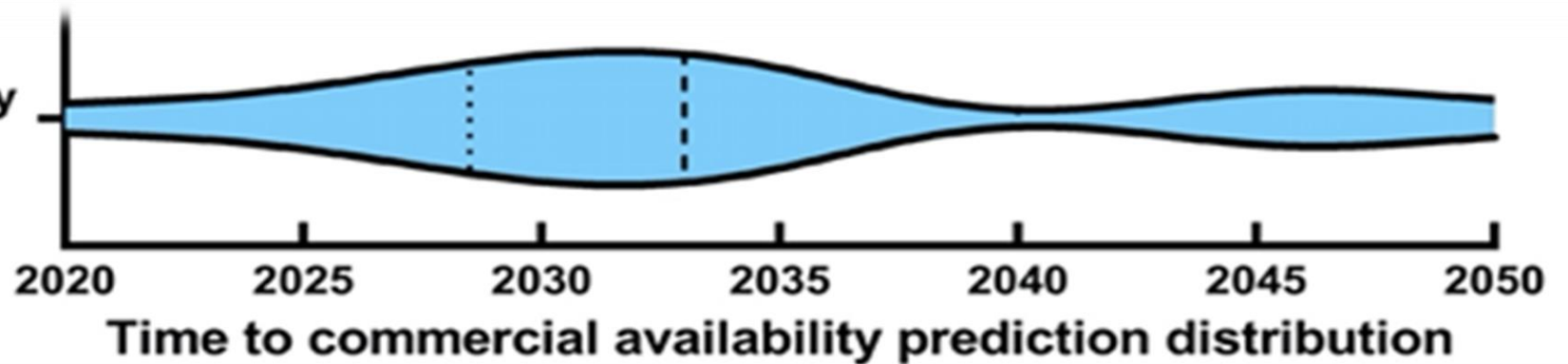


# AUTONOMOUS CONTAINERS

In 2019, the containerized shipping industry will have transported over 800 million TEU, generating earnings in excess of \$25bn.[1] These containers arrive in ports on container ships, where they face an immediate bottleneck as they are unloaded...

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2033	2030	Aug/2034	Mar/2043	5%	32%

Containers navigate autonomously from the sea to their final destination



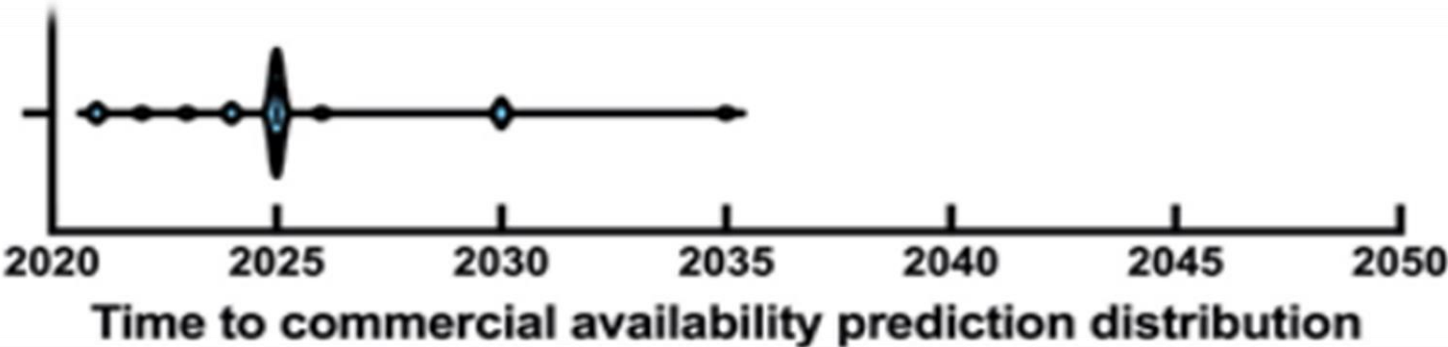
# CONTRACTS THAT INCENTIVIZE MINIMUM TIME AT PORT



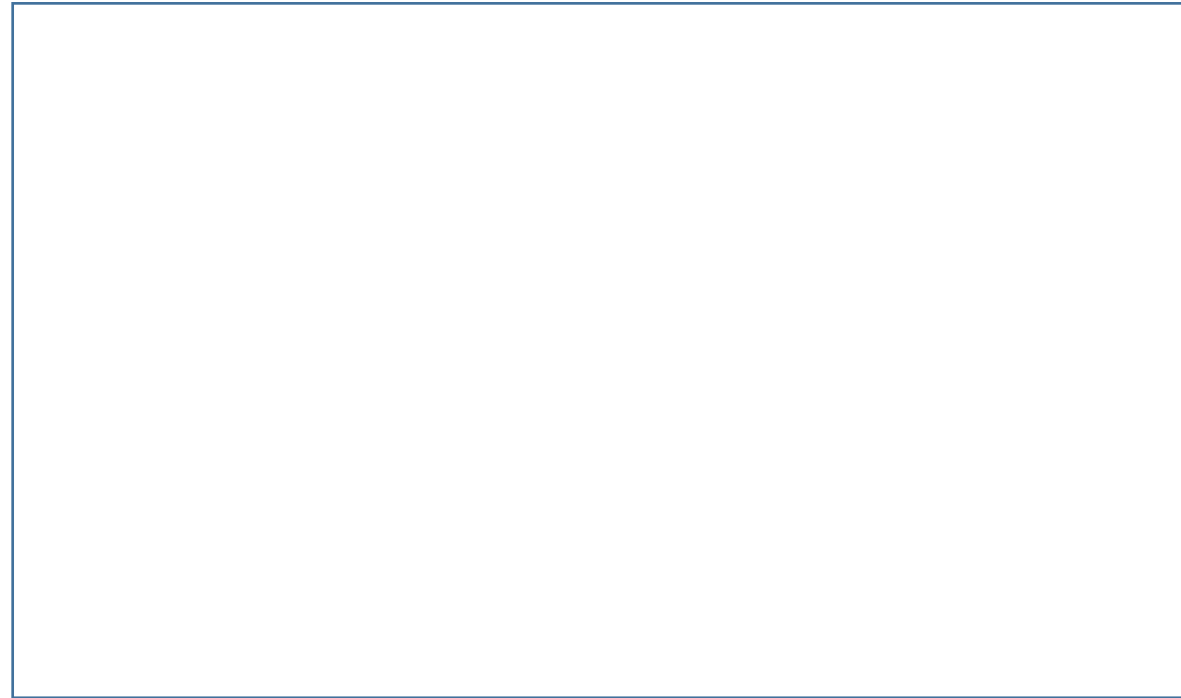
When at port, ships keep their auxiliary engines running for electricity, resulting in unnecessary emission of pollutants and over \$18bn in fuel waste.[1] Estimates suggest that an eight-hour stay at port can emit 2.5 tonnes of pollutants.[2] Waiting time at ports increases when ships fail to arrive on schedule, causing systemic delays for other inbound vessels, trucks, and trains.[1] While penalties exist for late arrivals, there is little incentive for the port to process cargo faster...

Median	Mode	Mean	Avg+1std dev.	% already here	% never happen
2025	2025	Apr/2026	Apr/2029	0%	0%

Contracts between ports and shipping companies are designed to minimize time at port



How many years from now, will we have a commercial vessel sailing on a molten salt thorium reactor??



DECEMBER,  
2021

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 7755 2534





# A FEW WORDS OF CAUTION

1. Forecasts are not the end, but a beginning
2. Just because many believe it to be true, it does not make it so
3. Innovators and organizations need to preserve optionality
4. Innovations do not happen by themselves



*...to establish a permanent strategic foresight platform for blue growth*

1

*...catalyze innovation actions through an open entrepreneurial discovery process*

2

*...facilitate trans-regional collaboration on industrial development projects*

3



Matthew Spaniol  
matt@ruc.dk

# Thank you

Roskilde  
Universitet

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 1119 2467

When will it become accepted practice that wind turbine blades will be 3D printed offshore, at the sites of wind park development projects?

2022

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 1119 2467

When will retrofitting kits for terminal tractors be commercially available?

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 1119 2467

When will 3D printing be automated - including material supply, removing products, and quality control?

