

ABS Issues Approval in Principle for Saildrone Uncrewed Surface Vehicles

IP, an important first step to full classification of a new maritime vehicle, was awarded to the Saildrone Voyager and Surveyor.

ALAMEDA, CA, USA, June 7, 2023
/EINPresswire.com/ -- The American
Bureau of Shipping (ABS) has issued
Approval in Principle (AIP) certificates
to Saildrone, including the first AIP for
a 10-meter commercial uncrewed
surface vehicle (USV), the Saildrone
Voyager. Approvals were issued to
Saildrone for both the Voyager and
Surveyor ocean data collection
platforms. The AIP is an important step
to class for Saildrone's vehicles.

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and nearly 1,000,000 miles sailed. Primarily powered by wind and solar energy, Saildrone's Voyager and Surveyor USVs are an environmentally friendly, cost-efficient solution for persistent data collection above and below the sea surface.

"Saildrone is proud to be the first to receive an AIP certificate for a 10-meter uncrewed vehicle from an internationally respected maritime classification agency. Saildrone technology is one of the most mature solutions available, and yet international regulations around uncrewed maritime systems are only in their infancy. Therefore, it is essential that Saildrone be proactive in working with the American Bureau of Shipping to lead the industry, on and off the water," said Saildrone founder and CEO Richard Jenkins.

AIP is a formal review process that evaluates the design concept of a new technology, product, or system against ABS rules and applicable regulations as an important first step to full classification.



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Patrick Ryan, ABS Senior Vice President and CTO "ABS is leading the industry in supporting autonomous projects and assisting innovative companies like Saildrone. ABS understands that autonomous technologies are not stand-alone products but fully integrated with vehicle infrastructure and the result of numerous advancements in a wide variety of mechanisms, including sensors, imaging, connectivity, machine learning, and more," said Patrick Ryan, ABS Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer.

Saildrone has already begun to scale production of its Voyager and Surveyor USVs to meet increasing demand for uncrewed ocean data collection. The company has partnered with Janicki Industries and Seemann Composites to build the Voyager wings and hulls and Austal USA to build Surveyor hulls. Surveyor wings will continue to be built at Saildrone's headquarters in Alameda, CA.

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