

Ground Truth - Course Correction

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The global bulk cargo industry is responsible for most goods shipped across the world. On an average day, around 50,000 transport ships haul 5 - 6 million containers. It is no underestimation to say that it is the backbone of international commerce in goods.

As with all massed transport, development of AI technology is already underway in the marine environment. This is both a cost-cutting exercise, but also one of efficiency which will bring both cost savings and improvements to the environment.

A large, globalised network of AIs (the Mind-Mesh of the piece) being able to both share and learn from the experiences of other AIs in their local area and global has clear advantages. But, as with all implementations of new technology, it is vulnerable both to external attack and internal cost-cutting and interference.

The CAPTAINS (*Central Autonomous Primary Transport Artificial Intelligence Navigation System*) AI was developed as part of a globalised initiative to unlock the potential of AI in the bulk cargo sector. Based on adaptive learning algorithms and integrating new encryption methods, the platform proved to first be the equal of human crew, and then their superior. As more CAPTAINS systems joined the network, the effectiveness of the system only improved.

Whilst the system was successfully developed, long-term operation fell victim to political power-plays, and commercial interests.

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