SeaML: SeaLion

Providing Unmanned Robotic Services
A Modular Autonomous Surface Vehicle to Digitize Maritime Tasks

Similar to their natural namesake being adapted to live in a large range of habitats across the world, having tremendous sensory and cognitive capabilities, Fraunhofer CML’s SeaLion is a highly modular robotic platform that can carry a large set of sensors and robotic devices to perform specific and complex service tasks.

The in-house developed Autonomous Surface Vehicle (ASV) SeaML:SeaLion was originally conceptualized to demonstrate that interconnected robotic vessels can provide on-demand robotic assistance services for the near-shore and port environment such as ship inspections (RoboVaaS project).

Further research revealed the need for a highly modular systems research platform and led to the development of a 2.2 m long catamaran as an anchor point for any type of maritime equipment, robots and sensors. Dependent on the use case, the platform can for example be equipped with a Launch and Recovery System (LARS) for Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and other towed equipment or with a landing platform for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) including a hot-swap battery system.

To complete the package, SeaLion’s ROS-based control software allows for precise autonomous or remote navigation and it’s scalable and web-based user interface (WebUI) enables for robust and secure job allocation, data processing, sensor monitoring and vessel operation from any device and location.

SeaLions Key Features

Vehicle Properties
- Compact size of 1.5 x 2.2 m
- Up to 24 h battery lifetime
- ROS – Robot Operating System
- Electrically Powered
- Onboard AI-Computer
- Over 250 km range at 11 knots

Modularity
- Reconfigurable deck
- Adjustable payload of up to 120 kg
- Modular Power grid (5/12/24/48 V Output power up to 1750 Watts)

Sensors
- LIDAR
- Stereo Cameras
- Echosounder, (Multibeam ready)
- Doppler Velocity Log
- AIS
- Environmental gas sensors

Robotic Integration
- Aerial drones (UAV)
- Landing Platform
- Battery Hot Swap
- Underwater drones (UUV)
- ROV
- Crawler
- LARS

More Than Just a Vehicle

SeaLion is hydrodynamically optimized to achieve maximum speed and high stability for port and near-shore environments.

It is designed to be customizable on-deck and underwater (moon poll) with all electronics stored in the hull and an on-board electric power network of autonomous industry standards. The LARS system consisting of an A-frame and winch that can autonomously launch and recover towed payload of 25 kg.

SeaML:Robotic Assistance Services

Our on-demand Robotic Assistance Services for the maritime sector are enabled through SeaML:SeaLion, SeaML:UXV and SeaML:WebUI. To learn more, see:

Fraunhofer CML can support in designing, developing and deploying the robotic solutions and services that fit your company’s needs. Tailored to your specific needs we support you in finding and realising innovation potential. Work with us to use the vast pool of solutions and push your ideas to the next level.

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