

Singapore moves towards ship-to-ship ammonia bunkering

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Singapore-based The Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation (GCMD) announced today the results of an ammonia bunkering safety study, which paves the way for a pilot project for ship-to-ship ammonia bunkering operations in the city-state by the end of this year.

The study was commissioned in January 2022 by the GCMD and its carrying out bunkering pilots in the port are low or able to be offset.

Because ammonia-fuelled vessels are not yet available, the pilot will be done with suitable alternatives, which can then lead to an actual bunkering exercise when ammonia-fuelled vessels come on line. The cost of the additional infrastructure needed for ammonia bunkering at two land-based sites is still being considered.

Because of Singapore's proximity to dense residential areas and operations that see more than 1,000 daily ship movements, the guidelines to pilot ammonia bunkering developed in this GCMD study will likely be applicable to ports elsewhere.

The GCMD said during the current Singapore Maritime Week that Singapore's ammonia bunker demand is expected to take off in the mid-2030s and is projected to reach 2mn t/yr by 2035, supported by a 1,500m³ bunker vessel.

Ammonia, like methanol and hydrogen, is an alternative marine fuel that can help the shipping industry reach the International Maritime Organisation's decarbonisation goals.

By Sammy Six