

Port Skills and Safety - Annual Innovation Workshops

bringing ports and technology innovators together to understand what safety innovations are possible and how they might be adapted to work in ports

the challenge

PSS is a membership organisation focussed on collaboration to improve port safety and the skills of port employees. We hold regular events for safety and skills professionals to share ideas and learning around safety. We noted that there was a gap between those with knowledge of working in ports and those with knowledge of new technologies. PSS launched a yearly meeting – now in its fourth year – bringing together these two groups of people to discuss what safety innovations are possible and how they might be adapted to work in the port environment.

These meetings include presentations from tech companies demonstrating how their technology is used in other sectors with an opportunity for port people to feed into adaptations to enable them to work for the port sector and hands-on sessions for port people to understand how the technology works. There is also an opportunity for ports who have introduced new technology to demonstrate them in practise and share their development learnings. Finally, a round table open discussion is hosted where the two groups can bring their expertise to adapt the products and services to improve safety in ports.

the innovation

PSS's role in the innovation is the conversation! Lots of products already exists which could potentially make ports safer, but the port environment is not like any other workplace. Therefore, collaboration is needed to ensure that port people understand how new technology can make ports safer and tech companies need to understand this unique environment. PSS is the enabler of this collaboration.



First Innovation Event

By bringing together tech people and port people, innovation has been able to thrive. PSS has introduced many ports to new products, and often for much less cost than they initially expected, and has also enabled innovative companies, especially small tech start-ups to get in front of the people they need to for the development of their products.

Advances already made have included technology from the warehousing sector which mounts cameras trailers which use real time imaging to recognise when people may be too close to moving machinery but also creating space for discussion on the positioning of these cameras so that they work when the trailer enters a ship and the movement of people is more restricted.



Second Innovation Event

how it was implemented

PSS has held three such days so far, the first focussing on innovation for improving RoRo safety, the second for innovation specifically for large and container ports and the third for innovation in port skills and training.

result

Many products that were discussed at these meetings have now come to market, including cameras incorporating AI mounted on to tugs and incident dashboard which uses AI to give better analysis of incidents and make recommendations for safety improvements.

conclusion

Although this may not be the typical innovation in safety entry PSS believes that we have made a real and significant difference to the use and adoption of new technology in UK ports.



Third Innovation Event

LINK: www.portskillsandsafety.co.uk