



# Priceless data

One spinoff of remote diagnostics service (RDS) is the valuable historical data the system collects. Class societies, manufacturers and other shipping players will all want a piece of this wealth of information.

It could also change the face of equipment maintenance and mandatory surveys. That is because the need for upkeep can be based on the actual condition of machinery, gleaned from continuous monitoring, rather than on the traditional timeline.

“While customers may have a fixed schedule of doing maintenance, say every six months, we tell them we recommend you do these tasks now, based on what the data tell us,” says Rune Braastad, Vice President of ABB’s Marine Services.

He adds that ABB has “started to talk with the class societies about how we can use our system to prolong the operation of certain equipment. Customers are asking us to do this. So, maybe you don’t need to do maintenance on a thruster after the usual five years, but after seven, according to its condition,” says Braastad.

Storing data, in addition to giving technical support, has other advantages for the customer. “If they want to know the history in 10 years’ time, we can give them the full fault history. Because we log everything and store it all in the database, we can detect failures in the system early – over a whole fleet,” he says.

## Benefits passed to manufacturers

With RDS, data from all the connected equipment on board can be stored on the vessel for up to two years. When a failure occurs, the engineers can go back to this data to see when a failure mode started and what recent modifications could have caused it.

“Then we can tell a customer they might need to upgrade certain components in the system. They have time to put this into budgets, to plan the service,” says Braastad.

But customers aren’t the only ones to benefit from this treasure trove of data. Some information is already being passed on to manufacturers. “We see, for example, that a component fails say every second year. We can get this info almost popping up in our system. Then we have to do some research to see why it is failing. It is much easier when you have a centralized bank of data,” says Braastad.

Like his colleagues at RDS, he knows that when you’re sitting on a pile of riches this big, you don’t keep it to yourself.

**Text:** Helen Karlsen

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