

Maritime Autonomy International Comparison Survey

Privacy Notice

Published: 13 April 2026

1. How we use your information

This privacy notice explains how we collect and use your personal information when you take part in the Stehr Consulting Maritime Autonomy Survey (the “Survey”). You may participate via a questionnaire designed to be completed without providing identifying information hosted on Microsoft Forms by Stehr Consulting.

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) Maritime Autonomy Assurance Testbed (MAAT) has appointed Stehr Consulting Ltd (“Stehr Consulting”) to manage and deliver this review.

NPL and Stehr Consulting are joint controllers of your personal information. This notice describes how your data will be used and outlines your rights under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Stehr Consulting will use the survey responses to produce a report for NPL MAAT, bringing together industry perspectives on the current global status of maritime autonomy. The purpose is to develop a clearer view of the international maritime autonomy landscape, including what different nations are developing, how ecosystems operate, and how trials and testing are conducted.

Stehr Consulting Ltd is a private limited company with Company Registration Number 14484444 and registered address of 7/8 Avon Reach Monkton Hill, Chippenham, Wiltshire, United Kingdom, SN15 1EE.

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is a company operated by NPL Management Ltd, which is owned by the Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT) in the United Kingdom.

2. The type of personal information we will collect

If you participate in the online survey hosted on Microsoft Forms, your responses are not collected together with identifying information. The survey is configured so that we do not record respondent names or require sign-in.

You may optionally provide personal information such as your name, email address, and phone number (“business contact details”) if you are willing to be contacted for further discussion. Where you choose to provide these details, Stehr Consulting will collect and process them to facilitate follow-up where appropriate.

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Your survey responses will be used to produce aggregated statistics and will not be attributed to you in any outputs.

Please note: as with most online services, limited technical information may be processed by the survey platform provider (Microsoft) for service operation and security purposes. This information is not used by us to identify respondents.

3. How we get the personal information and why we have it

Any personal information you choose to provide will be used to enable follow-up on your responses, where required, and to support the production of the final report. The final report may be published online; however, you will not be identifiable within it.

Under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), NPL and Stehr Consulting will process your personal data only where a lawful basis applies.

We rely on the following lawful bases to process your personal data for this purpose:

Optional contact details (name, email address, phone number):

Article 6(1)(a) – consent. You provide these details voluntarily and may withdraw your consent at any time.

Survey responses (non-attributable and reported in aggregated form):

NPL may rely on Article 6(1)(e) – public task, where applicable, in relation to its use of the findings. Stehr Consulting processes the information to deliver the survey and report and will not use it for unrelated purposes.

4. How we store and ensure the security of your personal information

Stehr Consulting will store any personal information collected during the review within its secure systems. Access to personal data is restricted to authorised project staff and protected by appropriate technical and organisational security measures, including Stehr Consulting's Cyber Essentials Plus certification.

Once the review has been completed, Stehr Consulting will securely dispose of your information.

5. How long we retain your personal information

If you choose to provide personal information as part of the Survey, Stehr Consulting will retain it until the report has been finalised and any agreed follow-up discussions are complete, and in any event no longer than 12 months after project close, unless we are required to retain it longer by law or contract. After this period, Stehr Consulting will securely dispose of your information.

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De-identified survey response data may be retained for a limited period after publication to support quality assurance and to respond to queries about the findings.

6. Who will we share your information with?

Personal information collected and processed as part of the Survey will not be shared outside NPL and Stehr Consulting, except:

- with trusted service providers who support survey delivery and IT systems (acting under appropriate contractual safeguards), or
- where disclosure is required by law or regulation.

7. Where your data is processed

We use Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Forms to collect survey responses. Data is processed and stored within Microsoft's cloud environment under our organisational controls. Where personal data is transferred outside the UK, appropriate safeguards are in place in line with UK GDPR requirements.

8. Joint Controller arrangements

NPL and Stehr Consulting jointly determine the purpose of the Survey and how responses are analysed for the final report. Stehr Consulting manages survey delivery and analysis, while NPL commissions the work and may publish the findings.

You may contact either organisation to exercise your data protection rights. Requests will be coordinated between the parties to ensure a timely and consistent response.

9. Your data protection rights

To exercise your rights as a data subject, please contact Stehr Consulting at enquiries@stehrconsulting.co.uk.

Information on how NPL handles personal data, your rights, how to contact its Data Protection Officer, and how to raise a complaint about the processing of your personal data is available in NPL's Personal Information Charter at the link below:

<https://www.npl.co.uk/privacy-notice>

Information on how Stehr Consulting handles personal data, your rights, how to contact its UK GDPR Lead, and how to raise a complaint about the processing of your personal data can be obtained by emailing enquiries@stehrconsulting.co.uk or by contacting Stehr Consulting via the following link: <https://stehrconsulting.co.uk/contact-us/>.