

ANNUAL SUMMIT 2026

at Losby Gods, Thursday 16 and Friday 17 April

PROSPECTS FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT



Jan Hoffmann, World Bank, Washington, USA

Audun Kolstad Wiig, DNB, Oslo • Martijn Bergink, Alfa Laval/Framo, Bergen

Kjartan Bru, BNP Paribas SA, Oslo • Sveinung Oftedal, Norwegian Ministry of Climate, Oslo

Elisabeth Holvik, SpareBank1, Oslo • Anders Valland, SINTEF Ocean, Trondheim

Ronald Spithout, OneHealth by Vikand LLC, The Netherlands & USA

Martin Crawford-Brunt, Lookout Maritime, London & Cape Town

Dr Paula Doyle, Aker BP ASA, Oslo

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PROSPECTS FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT

The prospects for maritime transport are shaped by a complex mix of technological innovation, geopolitical shifts, environmental imperatives, and economic realignment. Thus, global maritime trade is expected to slow, reflecting fragile global economic conditions and geopolitical tensions. However, due to disruptions in key maritime chokepoints, ships are taking longer routes, increasing voyage distances, alternative ports, and consequent costs. The industry is rapidly adopting AI, big data, and IoT for route optimization, predictive maintenance, and smart port operations, while trials and early deployments of greener ships and autonomous vessels are underway, promising reduced emissions, enhanced safety and efficiency.

Political instability and climate events are reshaping global shipping lanes, and the industry's focus on sustainability and decarbonization is unchanged. Last, but not least, as deep automation and digital tools become standard, there's a growing need for training and reskilling maritime workers to handle new technologies. Despite short-term challenges—like rising costs, geopolitical instability, and regulatory pressures—the long-term outlook for maritime transport remains cautiously optimistic.

To sum it up: At the Annual Summit 2026 we will look at the growing complexity of being a shipowner.

THURSDAY 16 APRIL

- 09:30–10:00 **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE, TEA & SNACKS**
- 10:00–10:15 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**
- 10:15–12:00 **KEYNOTE OPENING SPEAKERS**
- A geopolitical overview: what world do we navigate in?**
[Audun Kolstad Wiig](#), Subject Matter Expert Geopolitical Risk, DNB
- Owning complexity: what we're learning from shipowners trying to navigate an uncertain decade**
[Martijn Bergink](#), President, Marine Division Alfa Laval, and CEO of Framo
- 12:00–13:00 **LUNCH**
- 13:00–13:45 **The supply chain and port performance relationship: "It's complicated"**
Dr [Jan Hoffmann](#), Global Lead, Maritime Transport and Ports, World Bank, Online
- 13:45–14:00 **COFFEE REFILL**
- 14:00–16:00 **WORKSHOP: Prospects for maritime transport?**
[Kjartan Bru](#), Head of Transportation Capital Markets Nordics, BNP Paribas
- 16:00–17:30 **SUMMARY OF GROUP WORKS & PANEL DISCUSSION**
- 17:30–18:30 **PRE DINNER SPEAKER: SVEINUNG OFTEDAHL**
Three decades of building future resilient shipping – perspectives from the regulator. OR: The insider story of what really happened at the IMO that day.
- 19:30 **APERITIF & ANNUAL SUMMIT DINNER**
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FRIDAY 17 APRIL

- 09.00–09.30 **Macroeconomic outlook in changing times**
[Elisabeth Holvik](#), Chief economist, SpareBank 1
- 09.30–10.15 **Greener shipping – is it all over?**
[Anders Valland](#), Research Manager, SINTEF Ocean
- 10.15–10.45 **People Investment in Shipping - new fuels and the value of trust**
[Ronald Spithout](#), Managing Director, OneHealth by Vikand LLC, USA
- 10.45–11.15 **COFFEE REFILL AND CHECK-OUT**
- 11.15–12.45 **CLOSING SPEAKERS**
- Navigating emerging commercial, operating and technology risk**
[Martin Crawford-Brunt](#), CEO, Lookout Maritime, London
- AI – where do we go?**
[Paula Doyle](#), CDO, Aker BP ASA
- 12.45–13.00 **CLOSING REMARKS, LUNCH & END OF SUMMIT**
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COST & REGISTRATION

[all inclusive]

NOK 12,900 for members

Non-members: NOK 14,900

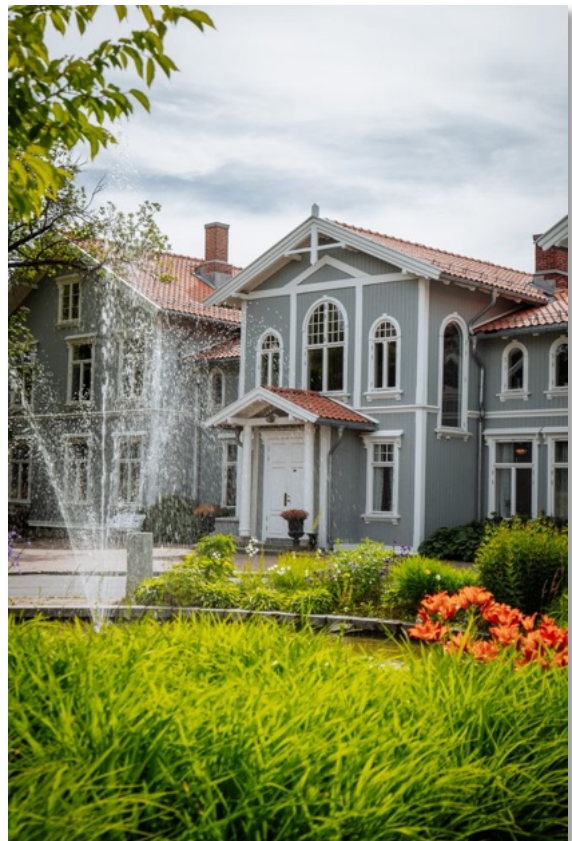
Price includes all meals, drinks (except bar) and single room accommodation 1 night which we automatically book for you.

REGISTRATION (you will be invoiced later):

[Annual Summit 2026](#) or [email](#) us

A closer look at the [venue](#)

TERMS & CONDITIONS: No-shows and cancellation later than Thursday 2 April will be invoiced 100%.



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AUDUN KOLSTAD WIG is a Subject Matter Expert in Geopolitical Risk within Risk Management at DNB. In this role, he analyzes geopolitical developments and their implications for financial institutions, markets, and global economic stability. He has also worked on international sanctions, contributing to the bank's understanding and management of complex sanctions regimes and geopolitical risk exposure.

Prior to joining DNB in 2022, Wig served for several years as a Senior Advisor on International Security Policy with the Norwegian Defense sector, where he worked on strategic security and geopolitical issues.

His experience also includes energy policy advocacy at both the national and European Union levels, with a focus on energy security and policy development.

Wig holds a Master's degree in Political Science and Middle East Studies from Sciences Po in Paris. He has also completed university studies in Farsi. In addition, he holds an Executive Master of Management in Energy from BI Norwegian Business School in Oslo and IFP Energies Nouvelles in Paris.



MARTIJN BERGINK is President of the Ocean Division and Executive Vice President at Alfa Laval Group. He also serves as the President of Business Unit Pumping Systems (Framo) in the Ocean Division.

Martijn Bergink was appointed President of the Ocean Division at Alfa Laval in September 2025. He joined Alfa Laval in 1998 and has since held several senior leadership roles, primarily in the Marine Division, now the Ocean Division. In 2019, he was appointed Business Unit President of Framo, where he has played a pivotal role in strengthening the company's position as a global leader in pump technology for the marine, offshore and aquaculture applications. Earlier in his career at Alfa Laval, he also led the boiler and gas system business in Aalborg and Nijmegen.

Educated as a chemical engineer, Martijn holds a Master of Science in Chemistry. He brings over two decades of experience in maritime technology and industrial systems, with deep insight into the industry's shift toward clean energy. At Alfa Laval, he has successfully led diverse businesses, driving growth while maintaining a strong customer-first mindset.

With strong leadership and solid business acumen, Martijn focuses on driving innovation, advancing digitalization and supporting the maritime industry's transition toward more efficient and future-ready operations.

JAN HOFFMANN joined the World Bank Transport Global Department in January 2025, as Global Lead Maritime Transport and Ports. Responsibilities include the Container Port Performance Index, the Port Reform Toolkit, and support to World Bank in-country port and shipping projects. From 2003 to 2024, Jan worked for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), since 2016 as Head of



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the Organization's Trade Logistics Branch. He developed and led technical assistance programs in trade and transport facilitation, co-authored and coordinated the Review of Maritime Transport, and initiated the Maritime Country Profiles, the International Transport Costs Data Set, and the Liner Shipping Connectivity Index.

Previously, Jan spent six years with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago de Chile, and two years with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London and Santiago. Prior to this, he held part time positions as assistant professor, import-export agent, seafarer, translator, and consultant. For eight years, he worked part time for the family tramp shipping business Hoffmann Shipping, based in Horneburg, Germany, with a tweendecker registered in St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

Jan has studied in Germany, United Kingdom, and Spain, and holds a doctorate degree in Economics from the University of Hamburg. He is member of the boards of various journals and professional associations, and from 2014 to 2018 he was president of the International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME). Dr Hoffmann has been to more than 140 countries and had his hair cut in 89. He has three sons and one wife.



KJARTAN BRU has some 20 years experience from banking in Paris, Oslo and London. He is Head of Transportation Capital Markets Nordics, in BNP Paribas, Oslo office. Previously he was heading DNB's shipping, offshore and logistics activities in Oslo covering Scandinavia and thereafter in London covering EMEA, spending in total about 13 years in the bank. He started his career in Paris in Credit Lyonnais.

Kjartan Bru studied economy at the University of Toulouse before graduating from ESCP Europe, a French business school. He is a board member of the Shipping & Offshore Network. With over two decades of experience across Paris, Oslo, and London, Bru is recognized as an expert in global maritime finance and corporate banking.

SVEINUNG OFTEDAL is a Norwegian civil servant and environmental negotiator known for his work on international climate policy for the maritime industry. He has played a major role in global negotiations (IMO) aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from shipping and developing environmental regulations for the shipping sector. Sveinung studied geophysics and earned a Master of Science degree. His scientific background helped shape his later career in environmental policy and international climate negotiations. Oftedal began his professional career in 1990 as a project manager at the Norwegian Society for Conservation of Nature, an environmental organization dedicated to protecting nature and promoting sustainable development.

In 1996, he joined the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, where he later became a senior official responsible for



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international maritime environmental policy. He has worked closely with global institutions to create environmental standards for the shipping industry. Between 2000 and 2006, he worked with the Norwegian Maritime Authority, focusing on environmental regulations for ships. Over the years, he has been deeply involved in international negotiations dealing with:

- greenhouse gas emissions from ships
- air pollution from maritime transport
- ship recycling & environmental safety
- ballast water management
- antifouling and marine biofouling

These issues are negotiated internationally through the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations agency responsible for regulating global shipping in London.

Oftedal has held several leadership roles within the IMO. He served as:

- Vice Chair of the IMO BLG Sub-Committee (2002-2009)
- Chair of the BLG and PPR Sub-Committee (2010-2019)
- Chair of the IMO Working Group on Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In these roles he has helped shape international agreements aimed at reducing the climate impact of global shipping. Oftedal gained international recognition for helping negotiate a new global strategy to cut emissions from shipping. When countries agreed on stronger climate targets for the maritime sector, his leadership and negotiating skills were widely praised by representatives from many nations.

Through decades of work in environmental diplomacy, Sveinung Oftedal has become an influential figure in global maritime climate policy. His efforts have contributed to international strategies aiming to reduce emissions and move the shipping industry toward zero emissions in the future.



ELISABETH HOLVIK is a Norwegian macroeconomist with extensive experience from both the public and private financial sectors. She currently serves as Chief Economist at SpareBank 1.

Before joining SpareBank 1, Holvik worked in several major financial institutions and policy environments, including Norges Bank, Nordea (including the bank's New York office), SEB, and BN Bank. She also worked as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company.

Holvik is a frequent speaker and commentator on macroeconomic issues such as monetary policy, globalization, and the outlook for the Norwegian economy. She was part of the Government appointed "Norway towards 2025" after Covid, and two "Norges Bank Watch" reports. She has served on several boards, including Olav Thon Eiendom, Viken Pensjonskasse, SpareBank 1, Stiftelsen Nøtterøy Tønsberg and the seafood export company Star Seafood.

She grew up in Måløy on the west coast of Norway, a background she has said shaped her views on economic culture and work ethic.

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ANDERS VALLAND is currently working as Research Manager for the Maritime Energy Systems group in SINTEF Oceans department of Energy & Transport. He started his career with Det Norske Veritas as a surveyor and approval engineer until 2002, when he joined MARINTEK – a company in the SINTEF Group. He has held several positions while doing research on maintenance technology and condition and performance monitoring of offshore subsea oil and gas production facilities, integrated operations for the oil & gas industry and eventually also on offshore wind production.

In 2015 Anders took the position as Research Manager on Maritime energy systems. In 2017 MARINTEK became SINTEF Ocean. Anders earned his BSc in Mechanical Engineering in 1993 at Trondheim College of Engineering, and his MSc in 1995 at the Norwegian University of Technology and Science (NTNU) within the field of Maritime Energy systems.



RONALD SPITHOUT: With over 20 years of mobile satellite industry knowledge, having served global mobile communities on land, in the air and at sea, Ronald has a deep understanding of the maritime industry from a perspective of digitalisation, driving operational efficiency and new business models with respect to decarboni-sation/fuel transition, crew communication, welfare, safety and (cyber) security.

Since 2022 Ronald has been advising maritime digital initiatives and their use of mobile satellite communications for enhanced crew welfare and sustainability. He joined Vikand in 2023 as Managing Director for OneHealth by Vikand to promote digital innovations and progressive medical solutions to proactively focus on seafarers' overall wellness and Human Sustainability.

MARTIN CRAWFORD-BRUNT is CEO at Lookout Maritime since October 2025. Lookout Maritime was founded in 2021 to bring needed clarity to our increasingly complex regulatory and operating environment. This requires a “joined-up approach” which recognises, connects and distils the key operational, technical, regulatory, digital and commercial considerations.

Having trained as a Mechanical Engineer and Naval Architect, Martin started his career working in a port authority. He then joined DNV as a ship surveyor and auditor, working his way up the organisation, around the world, until becoming UK manager and then regional manager for West Europe.



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Through his previous role as CEO of RightShip, he delivered a new vetting algorithm called the “Safety Score”, along with the software to improve safety, operational reliability and emission reduction in dry and wet commodity shipping. Users include the world’s largest charterers, ports and shipowners.

At RightShip, he spearheaded the development of the “DryBMS” standard with Intercargo, to deliver fleetwide safety improvement in dry bulk shipping, in a similar way, to the TMSA for tankers but modified for dry bulk shipping.

Martin leads all emissions related initiatives and the development of resources and the building of calculators for The Baltic Exchange. These new tools enable the correct pricing of efficiency gains (operational, technical or contractual) and emissions compliance costs, in a uniform form as \$/mt or the charter rate in \$/day against a trusted and understood baseline. Market participants and suppliers can use this structure to more clearly describe and price delivered performance.

PAULA DOYLE (PhD) is a prominent technology leader currently serving as the Chief Digital Officer (CDO) at Aker BP ASA, one of the largest independent oil and gas companies in Europe. Since joining the executive management team in July 2022, she has been a driving force behind the company’s ambition to become the world’s most digitalized oil company.



Before joining Aker BP, Doyle held several high-profile leadership positions at the intersection of technology and heavy industry:

- **Cognite:** She served as Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at the Norwegian industrial software powerhouse, where she played a key role in scaling the company globally.
- **ABB:** She spent many years in various executive roles at ABB, focusing on digital solutions, oil and gas, and chemicals.
- **Siemens:** Early in her career, she held technical and management positions at Siemens, building a strong foundation in industrial automation.

Paula Doyle is widely recognized for her expertise in industrial data management, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the "Digital Twin" concept. At Aker BP, her mission is to leverage data to improve safety, increase efficiency, and lower the carbon footprint of oil and gas production. She is a vocal advocate for "data liberation"—ensuring that operational data is accessible and usable across the entire value chain. She holds a PhD in Computer Engineering from the University of Limerick, Ireland.

Doyle is known for her pragmatic approach to digital transformation, often emphasizing that technology is only successful when it solves real-world operational problems and empowers the workforce rather than complicating their tasks.