



August 21, 2026
NS United Kaiun Kaisha, Ltd.

“Kimitetsu Maru” to Be Equipped with Autonomous Navigation System 「JAVC-C」

NS United Naiko Kaiun Kaisha, Ltd. (Head Office: Tokyo; hereinafter “NSU Naiko”), a company of NS United Kaiun Group has decided to install the autonomous navigation system “JAVC-C,” developed by Japan Marine United Corporation (Head Office: Yokohama; hereinafter “JMU”), on the self-unloading limestone carrier “Kimitetsu Maru”, which is owned and operated by NSU Naiko. The installation of the system is scheduled for around December 2026.

JAVC-C (JMU Autonomous Vessel Concept for Coastal), developed by JMU, is an autonomous navigation system concept designed for coastal vessels. It enables autonomous operation in coastal waters under the supervision of a single crew member. The system has been confirmed to comply with the Guidelines for Automated/Autonomous Operation of Ships issued by ClassNK (Nippon Kaiji Kyokai) and has obtained Approval in Principle (AiP).

The system consists of multiple subsystems that perform navigation tasks traditionally carried out by crew members. Under crew supervision, it automatically controls steering, including collision avoidance maneuvers, as well as acceleration and deceleration. In addition, information such as system status, vessel position, and planned routes is transmitted via ship-to-shore communications to a cloud-based server onshore, enabling monitoring from office computers and other devices.

NSU Naiko decided to install the system with the aim of enhancing the safe operation of its vessels while reducing the workload of seafarers. Furthermore, to verify operational efficiency improvements through the use of the system's route-planning and vessel-control functions, NSU Naiko applied for the FY2026 Subsidy Program for Promoting Energy Efficiency and the Switch to Non-fossil Energy in the Transportation Sector (Project to Promote Innovative Operational Efficiency and the Switch to Non-fossil Energy for Coastal Shipping), administered by Japan's Agency for Natural Resources and Energy and Maritime Bureau. The proposal was selected as an operational efficiency demonstration project.

Through the installation of the system and the demonstration project, NSU Naiko and JMU will continue their efforts toward the development and social implementation of autonomous vessels for coastal shipping.



【Kimitetsu Maru outline】

Length Overall :163.03 m

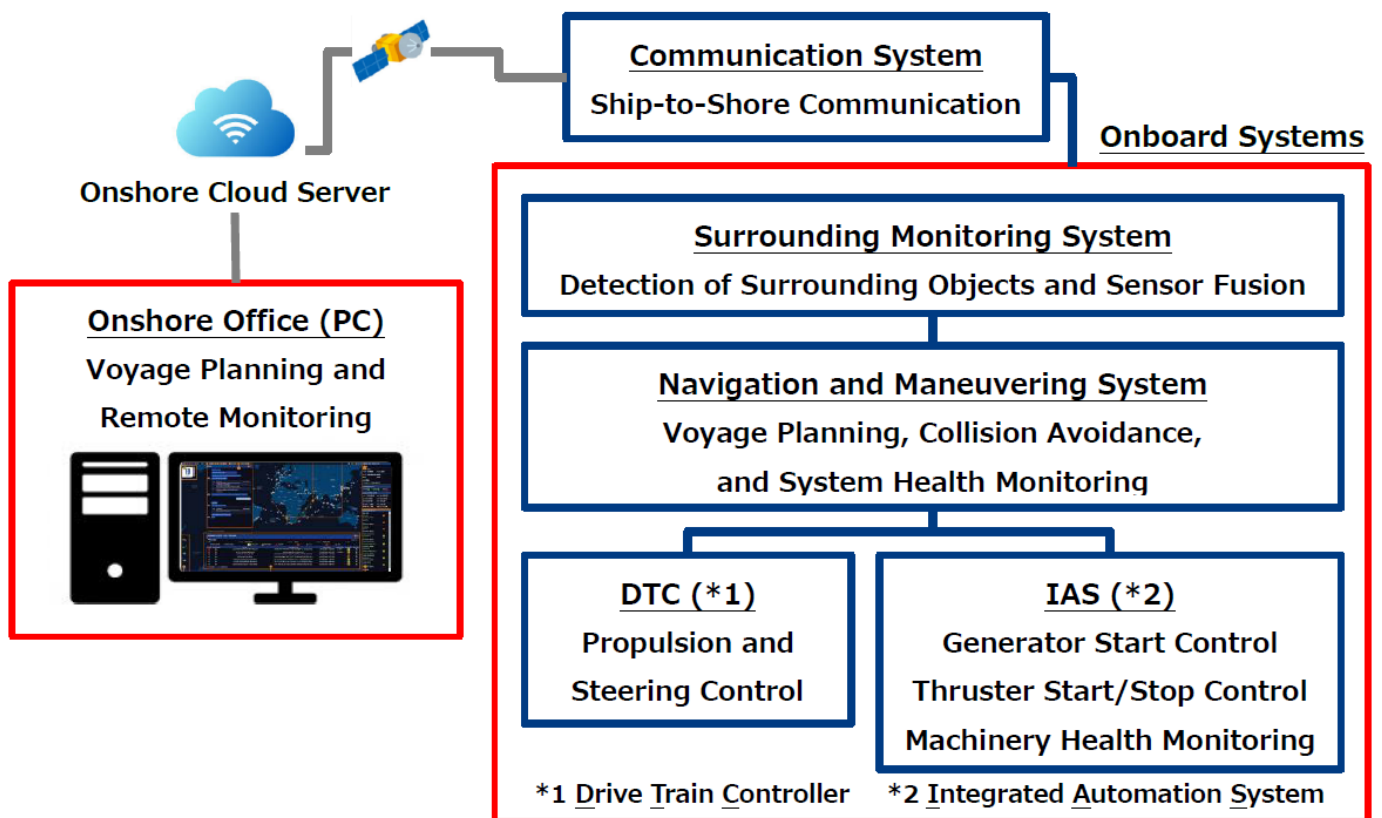
Breadth: 25.50 m

Depth: 14.20 m

Gross Tonnage: 17,477 ton

Deadweight Tonnage : 21,000 mt

【JAVC-C System Architecture】



For inquiries, please contact:

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