

navigation system uses data from the most diverse systems, beginning with such a tried-and-tested method as astronomical position finding and ending with signals from artificial satellites. All information is summarized, analyzed and comes out exact as a result. For example, the electronic computer "Biryuza" calculates the nuclear ship's optimum course between A and B and plots its route along the orthodrome (great circle) with allowances made for the Earth's irregular shape (flattening at the poles). Long ocean journeys are thereby cut by hundreds of miles. And the helm order is supplied automatically. Dead reckoning is also done automatically using information from various systems, thereby increasing its reliability.

The ship has many unique features. Its 6 cargo holds can house 74 lighters (weighing up to 370 tons) or 1,324 containers. "Sevmorput's cruising capacity in terms of fuel is almost limitless. The ship will run 4 years on 1 fill. The ship, which is equipped with a four-bladed propeller with controllable pitch, can move at a speed of 20 1/2 knots. Possessing a 40,000-hp nuclear propulsion plant, in addition to a strong hull and bottom, it can penetrate ice up to 1 metre in thickness. The high level of automation and the wide use of computers ensure reliable machinery maintenance.

Trial runs are the most critical moments in the life of any ship. How did this first exam go for seamen and shipbuilders?