

These ships operate without the usual crew members in the engine room and in the central control room. Equipment from a number of Western European countries is used in the construction of these ships, but all the basic components, including the engines, are manufactured in the Soviet Union. Overall control of production processes of ships of this class is performed by an integrated computerized microprocessor system using a keyboard and display monitors. The crew will also have at their disposal personal computers using automated control system programs to control the ship.

Sovetskaya Rossiya
4 November 1989
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Faulty Automated Control Systems Installed on Ships
Due to Shortage of Currency

The debate which has unfolded on the pages of the newspaper concerning automation on ships of the Soviet fleet has brought to light fundamental problems standing squarely before maritime workers. I am certain that no electromechanic can be found who does not have a complaint to make to the "Avrora" Scientific Production Association (NPO). There is no commission which can pass judgment on the quality and reliability of automated control systems like actual experience, the sea and seamen.

I will mention certain flaws in goods produced by the "Avrora" NPO detected on ships of the Northern Maritime Steamship Line. The "Shipka" system contains very unreliable P2K button-type switches and UPIIK units, and the VMP-Ch block