

A Survey on Air-to-Sea Integrated Maritime Internet of Things: Enabling Technologies, Applications and Future Challenges

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Introduction

The integration of air and sea domains through the Maritime Internet of Things (MIoT) represents a transformative leap in maritime technology, revolutionizing how we monitor, manage and interact with the vast and complex environments of our oceans and airspaces [1]. This convergence of technologies—often referred to as Air-to-Sea Integrated MIoT—enables seamless communication and data exchange between airborne and maritime assets, leveraging advances in sensors, communications and computing to enhance situational awareness, operational efficiency and safety. By integrating terrestrial, airborne and maritime data streams, this approach provides a holistic view of maritime activities, weather patterns and environmental conditions, facilitating improved decision-making and resource management. The survey on Air-to-Sea Integrated MIoT delves into the enabling technologies that underpin this integration, explores its diverse applications across various sectors and addresses the future challenges that must be overcome to fully realize its potential. As maritime and aerial domains become increasingly interconnected, understanding these elements is crucial for developing innovative solutions that enhance maritime operations, environmental monitoring and global trade [2].

Description

The foundation of Air-to-Sea Integrated MIoT lies in several key enabling technologies that facilitate the seamless interaction between air and sea domains. Sensor Technology plays a critical role, with advanced sensors deployed on aircraft, ships and other maritime platforms to collect a wide array of data. These sensors include satellite-based sensors for weather and environmental monitoring, radar and sonar systems for navigation and collision avoidance and environmental sensors for tracking water quality and pollution. The integration of data from these diverse sensors provides a comprehensive understanding of the maritime environment and enhances the accuracy of real-time monitoring. Communication Systems are another cornerstone of this integration, enabling robust and reliable data exchange between airborne and maritime assets. Technologies such as satellite communications, high-frequency radio and emerging 5G networks are employed to ensure continuous connectivity across vast and remote oceanic regions. These communication systems support the transmission of data from sensors to central hubs, facilitating real-time analysis and decision-making. Additionally, they enable the coordination of operations between different maritime and aerial units, improving response times and operational efficiency [3].

The applications of Air-to-Sea Integrated MIoT are broad and impactful. In maritime navigation and safety, this technology enhances collision avoidance systems, supports precise navigation through GPS and other positioning systems and improves search and rescue operations by providing real-

time data on vessel locations and environmental conditions. Environmental monitoring is another significant application, with integrated systems tracking oceanographic variables such as temperature, salinity and pollutant levels. This data is crucial for studying climate change, managing marine ecosystems and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. In the logistics and supply chain sector, Air-to-Sea Integrated MIoT streamlines operations by providing real-time tracking of cargo, optimizing shipping routes and improving port management through enhanced visibility and coordination. Despite the advancements, several future challenges must be addressed to fully harness the potential of Air-to-Sea Integrated MIoT [4]. One major challenge is the data management and integration issue, as the sheer volume of data generated by sensors and communication systems can be overwhelming. Efficiently processing, storing and analyzing this data requires robust computing infrastructure and advanced algorithms. Security and privacy are also critical concerns, as the integration of air and sea domains increases the risk of cyber threats and data breaches. Ensuring secure communication channels and protecting sensitive information is paramount. Additionally, the standardization of protocols and interoperability between different systems and platforms is essential to achieve seamless integration and avoid operational silos. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing research, collaboration between stakeholders and the development of innovative solutions [5].

Conclusion

The Air-to-Sea Integrated Maritime Internet of Things represents a groundbreaking advancement in maritime and aerial technology, offering transformative benefits across various sectors. By integrating advanced sensor technologies, robust communication systems and comprehensive data analytics, this approach enhances situational awareness, operational efficiency and safety in the maritime domain. The diverse applications of Air-to-Sea Integrated MIoT—ranging from maritime navigation and environmental monitoring to logistics and supply chain management—demonstrate its significant impact on modernizing maritime operations and addressing global challenges. However, the realization of its full potential depends on overcoming several critical challenges, including data management, security and standardization. As technology continues to evolve, ongoing research and innovation will be crucial in addressing these issues and advancing the capabilities of Air-to-Sea Integrated MIoT. By addressing these challenges and leveraging emerging technologies, we can unlock new opportunities for enhancing maritime operations, environmental stewardship and global trade, ultimately contributing to a more connected and efficient world.

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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