

Moss-Horten ferry terminal Norway - 2022



Maximizing efficiency for electric vessels at Moss-Horten ferry terminals

CHALLENGE

Operating Norway's busiest ferry route, the Moss-Horten connection handles crossings every 30 minutes, resulting in approximately 17,000 moorings per year. Serving modern vessels, including large all-electric ferries, these terminals required extremely fast, safe, and reliable docking to maintain tight schedules.

Traditional mooring methods created challenges around:

- Time pressure during berthing and unberthing
- Crew safety when handling mooring lines
- Vessel motion, impacting transfer safety and charging stability
- The need to reduce emissions and energy consumption as part of broader terminal automation and sustainability goals

SOLUTION

As part of a terminal automation initiative, both ferry terminals implemented Trelleborg's AutoMoor rope-free automated mooring system in 2022.

Using vacuum-based technology, vessels are secured at the push of a button within seconds, eliminating mooring ropes and significantly reducing crew workload. Once the vacuum pads are engaged, vessel thrusters can be shut down, lowering fuel or battery power consumption while holding the vessel securely alongside. The stable connection minimizes vessel motion caused by waves, improving safety for passengers and crew while enabling longer, more efficient charging windows for electric ferries, supporting battery health and overall operational efficiency.

AutoMoor has streamlined docking operations across this high-frequency route, delivering safer turnarounds, reliable schedules, and reduced emissions at both Moss and Horten ferry terminals.



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FULL STORY**

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The most effective part of AutoMoor is that we don't need to use any power when we're alongside. We're able to switch off the thrusters, reduce time significantly, and improve crew safety.

— Willy Petersen,
Technical Director, Bastø Fosen

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Website | trelleborg.com/marineandinfrastructure

Email | marine_infra@trelleborg.com

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