Abstract:
When the RMS Lusitania was launched in 1906 it was the longest, largest ship in the world. The 787ft, 30,000 gross registered ton vessel took just over three years to build and was considered an engineering marvel of the new century.
Nearly one hundred years later the Queen Mary 2 set sail on her maiden voyage showered with similar accolades. However, this ship is five times the volume, was built in less than two years and is filled with a wealth of mechanical, electrical and electronic equipment that would be unimaginable to the operators and passengers of her illustrious predecessor. What great strides have been taken in shipbuilding technology in the last one hundred years to enable such a leap in shipbuilding achievement?
This talk will examine how shipbuilders have been driven by commercial competition, war and the forces of nature to develop the shipbuilding methods prevalent today. The key techniques of successful shipbuilders in the 21st century will be examined before a short discussion on the potential future developments in this most awe inspiring field of human endeavour.

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Max van Someren is the Technology Development Manager at Austal, where he works on the application of new technologies to improve the design and construction of high speed craft. Previously Max was a Business Manager at Frazer-Nash Consultancy, working on the delivery of research and development work in the naval sector, and a shipyard development consultant with First Marine International (FMI).