HIGHER TECHICAL INSTITUDE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

DIPLOMA PROJECT

DEVELOPMENT OF A MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLED SAILS OPTIMISER

BY ANDREOU THEODOTOS

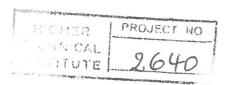
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SUPERVISOR: Mr SOTIRIS HADJIOANNOU

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1.SAILING

1.1Introduction

Sailing has been one of the oldest methods of navigation. All the people that live or used to live near the sea, an ocean or even a lake, have used sailing for navigation. Ancient Greeks used to travel all over the Mediterranean using ships that sailing and rowing. Ancient combined both Phoenicians had traveled even further. Historical documents have proved that they had sailed in the Atlantic Ocean and reached the shores of England. Later during the Middle Ages a warlike people ruled the waters of the North and West Europe; the ferocious Vikings. They were known to be great warriors but besides that they were very skilled sailors. It is believed to have crossed the Atlantic Ocean and reached the shores of North America and Greenland long before Columbus discovered America.

However the people in the other side of Globe haven't been lazy over the subject. Polynesians are known to be great sailors and were travelling all over the Pacific Ocean with their catamarans.

Sailing had been the main means of transportation until the beginning of the 19th century, where they were replaced by steam ships, after the industrial revolution. This fact though did not put an end to the existence of sailing ships. They are still used as sport crafts and they are also very popular as yachts. The majority of these yachts combine sails and engines.