

# FLAGSHIP

AT POSIDONIA

JUNE 2010

## Liberia strengthens industry-leading position

**I**t's official. Liberia is now bigger and more successful than at any time in its 60-year-plus history. It has recently passed a number of significant milestones, including the registration of its 3,000th vessel and the passing of the historic 100m gross tons mark. And there is more to come.

In the past five years, the Liberian Registry has grown by over 40m gross tons, twice the rate claimed by its nearest competitor over the same period. And it is still growing. A total of 3,275 ships, aggregating more than 103m gross tons, currently fly the Liberian flag.

But the Liberian Registry is not just about numbers. It is about safety and customer service and industry-leading initiatives. Liberia has an enviable record with all leading safety monitoring organisations around the world, and a proven track-record of responding immediately to crises wherever necessary. And it has repeatedly shown its willingness and ability to take a proactive approach to helping owners and operators respond to the commercial and regulatory challenges which they face on a regular basis. Consider just a few of the recent initiatives which Liberia has undertaken. It was the first ship registry to offer **harmonised ISM and ISPS audits**.

## Anti-piracy program demonstration at Posidonia

Liberia continues to take a proactive approach to helping owners and operators in the fight against piracy. It has produced an innovative computer-based program specifically designed to train seafarers and company security officers in the practices necessary to avoid, deter or delay acts of piracy.

Working with leading UK-based security adviser, Maritime Underwater & Security Consultants (MUSC), Liberia has produced a Best Management Practice (BMP) program specifically designed for the use of merchant ships in the waters off Somalia. MUSC will be running a live, scaled-down version of its anti-piracy operations room (*see photo opposite*) on the LISCR stand at Posidonia. We look forward to welcoming you there.

## Liberia at Posidonia 2010

Liberia has a great deal to celebrate at Posidonia 2010. Please join us at our exhibition stand, No 578, where we will be pleased to update you on the exciting developments taking place at LISCR.

It has taken a leading role in training seafarers and company security officers in the **fight against piracy**, which is currently plaguing the international shipping industry. It is the first ship registry outside the EU, and the first open registry in the world, to take action to ensure that its clients achieve access to the much **better loan rates** which are available from the leading German ship finance banks. It has developed a pilot scheme to **extend compulsory drydocking intervals** to seven-and-a-half-year intervals to help provide the flexibility urgently required by its clients in the current difficult economic climate. And it has developed a **VOC Management Plan Review and Approval Service** to help the tanker industry achieve compliance with impending air pollution legislation.

Liberia does not believe in standing still. It has demonstrated that it is possible to significantly increase market share while offering the very highest standards of safety and service in a highly competitive industry. And it will continue to do so.



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## Local presence and international coverage

**T**he Liberian Registry is every bit as international as the industry in which it operates. It has the ability to respond immediately to the needs of its clients, wherever they are in the world, at any given time. But it also recognises the importance of having a dedicated presence in those parts of the world where it has a particularly significant membership base, or which are central to the conduct of global shipping commerce.

Liberia has a longer-standing relationship with Greece than with any other maritime nation. The first ship registered with Liberia, more than sixty years ago, was the Niarchos-controlled tanker *World Peace*. And the 3,000th vessel was also Greek - the *Ise Princess*, which joined the Liberian fleet in 2009. Little wonder, then, that Piraeus is one of the Liberian Registry's longest-established offices, and our dedicated staff there are available to offer help and advice whenever it is needed.

Pictured above, from left to right, are Anastasia Paralis (Corporate Dept), Maria Xagorari (Registration & Mortgage Dept), Ioanna Papoutsoglou (Corporate Dept), Michalis Pantazopoulos (General Manager), Alina Bogdan (Seafarers' Dept), Christina Kessari (Registration & Mortgage Dept) and George Kakaliouras (Plan Approvals).

We look forward to meeting everyone at Posidonia 2010.

## VOC plan approval

The Liberian Registry has developed a VOC Management Plan Review and Approval service to help tanker owners and operators achieve compliance with impending IMO legislation governing air pollution. Its clients can have their VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) Management Plans reviewed and approved by the Liberian Administration, as required in order to achieve International Air Pollution Prevention certification under MARPOL. Ask for further details at Posidonia.



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