

FLAGSHIP

**NEWS FROM
THE WORLD'S
LEADING SHIP
REGISTRY**

Liberia Registry launches electronic oil record book

The Liberian Registry, in partnership with Prevention at Sea Ltd, a Cyprus-based maritime compliance technology company, has launched an innovative software product designed to replace traditional paper oil record books (ORBs) and to facilitate correct ORB entries into an efficient electronic format.

Liberia's Electronic Oil Record Book (ε-ORB) is the most recent in a long line of ground-breaking industry initiatives designed to make the Liberian-flag fleet the safest, greenest and most efficient afloat. It is intended to address a variety of issues, including oil record books being reported missing on board, failure to document entries in the ORB of internal transfer of oily mixture, discrepancies between entry into the ORB and actual capacity of the oily water separator, and falsification of log entries.

LISCR Vice-President Christian Mollitor says, "The Liberian Registry is proud to deliver innovative products that help shipowners proactively comply with regulatory requirements. It is our belief that many errors found in oil record books are caused by human administrative error rather than wilful

non-compliance with MARPOL. However, the consequences of incorrectly recording oil waste transfers are very serious and may lead to criminal prosecution.

"Through the use of technology, we have developed an IMO-compliant oil record book that eliminates the chance for administrative errors, ensures accuracy and accountability in record-keeping, and is easily auditable both on board and ashore. The ε-ORB affords peace of mind, knowing that your ship maintains accurate information when pulling into port."

Created in accordance with MARPOL requirements and certified by Lloyd's Register under MEPC1/Circ. 736/Rev. 2 guidelines, the ε-ORB is designed to establish transparency, credibility and traceability. All information is stored electronically through the use of a system back-up, making archiving easier and enabling past data to be revisited. The ε-ORB software will be available for use by shipowners, ship operators, and authorities worldwide.

For more information on the ε-ORB software, please contact eorb@liscr.com



Liberia flags world's largest LNG-powered ethane carrier

The world's largest ethane/ethylene-capable liquefied gas carrier in operation, the "Navigator Aurora", was recently delivered to Navigator Gas by Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai, China. The vessel is the first of four Navigator Gas ethane/ethylene midsize vessels due to be delivered during 2016 and early 2017. All four ships ("Navigator Eclipse", "Navigator Aurora", "Navigator Nova" and "Navigator Prominence") will operate under the Liberian flag. In fact, 35 of Navigator Gas's ships (29 in the water and 6 newbuildings) are flagged with Liberia.

The "Navigator Aurora" has a carrying capacity of 37,300 cbm, enabling the vessel to hold up to 20,000 tonnes of ethane/ethylene. This state-of-the-art vessel has been chartered for a minimum of ten years to the European chemical group Borealis for the transport of ethane from the US east coast to Europe, with commercial operations scheduled to begin in fourth-quarter 2016.

The vessel's propulsion and electrical systems are designed to use LNG or methane as fuel in addition to heavy fuel and marine gas oil. Plans are also well-advanced to adapt the main engines and software to allow the ship to burn ethane (C2) as a third fuel alternative.



This year at Posidonia 2016, held in Athens, Greece, the Liberian Registry announced the launch of its innovative software product –the Electronic Oil Record Book (ε-ORB). Heavy demand for ε-ORB software demonstrations at Posidonia confirmed the high level of interest in this new product.

Liberia is first ship registry to recognise Green Award ships

Liberia has become the first flag state to participate in the Green Award programme, under which eligible shipowners will be offered significant annual tonnage tax discounts.

Green Award is a global, independent, not-for-profit quality assurance organisation which certifies ship managers and vessels that go beyond industry standards in terms of safety, quality and environmental performance. The scheme brings together ship managers who are willing to improve the safety and environmental performance of their vessels, and ports or private companies in the maritime sector which are willing to support vessels that go beyond international conventions and legislation in terms of ship lay-out and equipment, quality of operations and management.

Green Award-certified ships will be recognised and rewarded by the Liberian Registry for their efforts to minimise emissions and risks of incidents and accidents, while ensuring the best care for people and the environment. The Registry will offer a 3% tonnage tax discount annually to all Liberian-flag vessels that are certified. The discount will apply continually as long as the vessel remains in the Green Award programme.

The Green Award programme provides further confirmation of the pioneering role adopted by Liberia in all areas of global shipping, and underlines its commitment to environmental compliance by striving to ensure that Liberia remains the greenest fleet afloat.

Green Award Chairman Captain Dimitrios Mattheou says, "Recognition by the Liberian Flag Administration of the Green Award certificate as a reliable quality mark is of great significance to us."



Hara Gisholt, the Liberian Registry's VP of Business & Legal Affairs, was honoured to participate in the ceremony held at NASDAQ headquarters in Manhattan on June 23 at which Seanergy Maritime Holdings Holdings Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Stamatis Tsantanis, rang the NASDAQ opening bell.

Liberian Registry introduces cost-saving measures

The Liberian Registry has introduced a range of cost-saving provisions to help mitigate the burden and financial strain currently being placed on owners and operators of Liberian-flag vessels during the sustained economic downturn in the maritime and offshore sectors.

The provisions are set out in Marine Operations Notes 02-2016 and 03-2016 recently released by the Liberian Maritime Authority to owners and operators of Liberian and non-Liberian flag vessels, as well as financial institutions and legal advisers. They cover a range of operational expenses with potential for cost-savings as well as advice that will reduce flag state expenses.

The guidance also includes the facility to waive initial certification and mortgage-related fees for registration transactions in Liberia, as well as fees for the reissuance of ISM and ISPS certificates for vessels transferring into the Registry.

Other provisions covered by the Liberian Registry initiative include the potential to extend vessel drydock periods, the option to harmonize ISM/ISPS audits with annual safety inspections, and free access to an electronic seafarer certification and documentation system.

The cost-savings measures also embrace specific provisions relating to vessels entering lay-up, and the facilitation of operational measures to ensure safe and secure removal of the vessel from service. These provisions are available to vessels currently in service, vessels currently under construction and vessels transferred from

other flag administrations for the purpose of lay-up. In this regard, guidelines and procedures have also been developed by the Liberian Registry to address safe manning levels, lay-up procedures and inspection intervals.

"With just a little innovative thinking, it is possible for ship registries to anticipate problems before they occur, in the process saving owners and operators both time and money."

LISCR CEO Scott Bergeron says, "We believe it is essential to support the shipping industry during these extremely difficult times. The initiatives we have announced supplement those cost-efficiency measures which are already available to Liberian-flag vessels. Other benefits enjoyed by Liberian-flag vessels include favourable treatment when calling at Chinese ports. This follows the recent historic Agreement on Maritime Transport between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of Liberia, under which Liberian-flag vessels will be charged a preferential rate for tonnage dues when visiting any port in China. The preferential rate saving equates to a 28% discount for each vessel's tonnage dues.

"With just a little innovative thinking, it is possible for ship registries to anticipate problems before they occur, in the process saving owners and operators both time and money. We believe these latest measures will help achieve those objectives."



An official ceremony marking the Liberian Registry - Green Award initiative took place at the Registry's stand at Posidonia 2016. LISCR CEO, Scott Bergeron, and Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Registry's Piraeus office, Dr. Michalis Pantazopoulos, accepted a Green Award commemoration to seal the co-operative agreement. Green Award Chairman Captain Dimitrios Mattheou and Executive Director Jan Fransen welcomed the Liberian Registry to the network of Green Award members.

Liberian Registry attracts big crowds at Posidonia

The Liberian Registry enjoyed a very successful Posidonia 2016. Its presence at the world's leading shipping exhibition came shortly after it had introduced a range of cost-saving measures for owners and managers, and provided an appropriately global platform from which to launch a new product and confirm a new alliance designed to both improve the environmental friendliness of Liberian-flag ships and to save owners and operators money.

Liberia's stand at Posidonia was extremely popular with visitors wanting to hear more about Liberia's cost-saving measures, which include a range of savings on operational expenses made possible by the Registry's innovative approach to ship registration and certification.

Another factor which drove record numbers of visitors to Liberia's Posidonia stand was the launch of the innovative software product designed to replace traditional paper oil record books (ORBs) and to facilitate correct ORB entries



The Registry was pleased to have Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) (pictured left) visit its booth at Posidonia and meet with Anthony Dupree, Vice President, Technical & Communications (Liberian Registry).

into an efficient electronic format. Heavy demand for e-ORB software demonstrations at Posidonia confirmed the high level of interest in the product.

Also at Posidonia, the Liberian Registry confirmed that it has become the first flag state to participate in the Green Award programme, under which eligible shipowners are offered significant annual tonnage tax discounts.



WAN CHING CHIANG

Wan Ching Chiang is embarking on her fifth year with the Liberian Registry, having joined the Singapore office on 1 October, 2012. She is currently a Registrations Manager and Corporate Coordinator, in which role she processes vessel, mortgage and corporate registrations on a day-to-day basis for the Singapore office.

Wan Ching graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, majoring in International Business. Prior to joining the Registry, she worked for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), Bank of America, Merrill Lynch and Barclays Capital.

Wan Ching greatly enjoys working at the Liberian Registry. In addition to her main duties, she responds to a variety of client enquiries, and frequently assists with office operations. She says, "My main duty is to ensure that all transactions are completed smoothly and efficiently, and that they ultimately live up to Liberia's reputation as a highly efficient and top-quality registry, providing first-class customer service.

"The Registry is a great place to learn. Every day is different, and comes with a fresh set of challenges. These challenges have enabled me to grow and mature into a well-rounded individual, greatly supported by my colleagues in other regional offices around the world, who are very kind and helpful.

"I believe that learning never stops. Therefore, I like to read and travel during my free time. New experiences open my eyes to new opportunities and always surprise me. I also enjoy spending quality time with my family and friends."

LET LIBERIA INTERVENE

In September, two days before the arrival of a 42,000 gt oil tanker in New York, the vessel's operating company reported that it was conducting an investigation following notification by its new chief engineer that oil waste and oily water had been transferred to tanks which were not designated to receive waste oil, and that the oil record book recorded only a few of these transfers. Permission to transfer to these tanks was not requested by the ship and was not approved by the company and the Liberian Administration. The Administration told the company to contact the USCG, and confirmed that it was sending an investigator to the vessel on arrival in New York. Because the company reported the discrepancy to the Liberian Administration, and because it informed the USCG, the USCG allowed the Administration and the company to resolve the reported problems on board.



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THE LIBERIAN REGISTRY WORLD-WIDE OFFICES

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Let Liberia intervene

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