

Outstanding Commitment

Ship superintendents' training course welcomes 100th delegate

In recent years it had become apparent that there was a shortage of suitably qualified and experienced Ship Superintendents. In response to this, five years ago a training programme was established, based on the Isle of Man.

Since then, the programme has flourished. In October Demetris Makaritis, from Navigator Gas, London, became the programme's 100th delegate and was presented with a certificate to mark this event.

Demetris had enrolled on the programme to enhance his knowledge and skills since being recruited as Technical Superintendent at Navigator in July 2010. He was attracted by the high level of training and the quality of the course, which had been recommended and sponsored by his employer.

In recent years the programme has grown impressively, obtaining global recognition as a unique and essential course invaluable in many aspects of the maritime industry. Delegates have travelled from all over the world for the intensive nine-day programme, delivered by a team of professionals known to be the industry's best. Those who complete the course will gain 68 CPD points, together with an Endorsed Assessment Certificate.

The programme is accredited by DNV and endorsed by IMarEST, as well as the Nautical Institute, Isle of Man Ship Registry and the Isle of Man International Business School. It is supported by Dohle Isle of Man and the Bernhard Schulte Group and is managed by EMCS International Limited.



Photo Richard Ashcraft. From left-right, Steve George (Director, EMCS International), Demetris Makaritis, (Navigator Gas) Ged Watts (Director, Isle of Man International Business School) and Ian Biles, (Maritime Services International).

Run bi-annually, the course's major asset has to be the vast wealth of experience from a professional team of lecturers, having accumulated between them over 500 years' experience in every aspect of the shipping industry. The programme is regularly updated to encompass new legislation and codes of practice in the maritime industry.

The team includes Kuba Szymanski, Secretary General of Inter Manager; Alan Speed, Associate and Mariner, Hill Dickinson LLP; Chris Fisher, Director of Bunker Claims International; Phillip Purdie, Director of Harbour Insurance Brokers and Richard Greiner, Partner - Shipping Industry Group of Moore Stephens and David Lloyd of Lloyds Register. Adding to the above visiting lecturers, the course is supported by a host of professionals working from the island, from Doble, Bernhard Schulte, the Isle of Man Ship Registry and is managed by Steve George, Director of EMCS International Limited.

Although originally designed for newly appointed recruits to the position of Superintendent and seagoing Engineers and Deck Officers coming ashore, the training has evolved to provide a broader foundation in all aspects of maritime operations. Attracting delegates from all over the world, the training takes the form of an intensive nine day programme. Topics covered range from Dry Docking, Quality Assurance, Environmental Issues, Reporting for Owners, Insurance, Commercial Knowledge, Legal Issues, Budgeting and Cost Controls, Major Damage Workshops, Emissions to Time and Safety Management and Ship Registration.

The course is a joint initiative between the Isle of Man Ship Registry and the Isle of Man Business School. It is one of a number of initiatives, which has been partially facilitated by the government. Public/private partnerships of this kind have ensured that the shipping industry as a whole flourishes. Dick Welsh, head of the Ship Registry, believes that "no other course sustains the level of practical experience and knowledge-sharing which the Isle of Man course packs into a very intensive nine days. The lecturers provide contact details and are happy to provide assistance once the course has finished. The course has also been found to be very rewarding for current superintendents to refresh their knowledge or for others working within ship management to gain knowledge."

The latest programme, whose delegates ranged from Junior and Senior Technical Superintendents to Marine Superintendents, Flag State and Marine Insurance Surveyors, Marine Personnel and Insurance Officers, plus senior people from the super yacht sector, was a resounding success. All attendees passed the final day assessment, with three gaining a distinction. The Superintendents were involved with



Tankers, Offshore Accommodation Barges, General Cargo, Multi Purpose, Containers, LNG, and Ethylene and represented MOL Tankships (London), Exmar Belgium, Anglo Eastern, Graig Ship Management, Bernhard Schulte (UK & Greece), MOL LNG, Navigator Gas and Maritime Services.



As testament to the value of the programme, employers of previous delegates have unanimously endorsed this training, and have reported improved efficiencies in the staff who have attended as a result. These same companies are now sending delegates on a continual basis.

EMCS International Limited, who manage the course, have also seen a rise in the number of candidates who choose this programme to enhance their future careers, registering independently of an employer. Subsequently, these delegates have gained more rewarding employment as a result of their attendance.

Steve George, Director of EMCS International Limited, feels that the success of the course is due to the quality and experience of the lecturers. He says: "The sponsors and managers of this course have shown outstanding commitment to this programme, playing an integral role in its success. Whilst some lecturers give their time freely, and all bring their wealth of knowledge, the team is committed to improve the performance of the delegates, and hence benefit the companies that they represent." ♦

Undoubtedly, the maritime industry needs this course, and with a fee of £3900 for the full nine-day programme, the question is, can any marine company afford to miss it. The next course runs Saturday 2nd - Sunday 10th April 2011.

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