



Lloyd's List  
**GREEK  
SHIPPING  
AWARDS  
2012**



*The  
Winners*





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## GREEK SHIPPING AWARDS 2012

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## Stars come out to recognise Greek shipping achievement

*Shipping minister Kostis Mousouroulis officially opens the event*

"TONIGHT, hundreds of guests have gathered at the InterContinental Hotel in Central Athens for the 9th annual Greek Shipping Awards.

"It's an event which draws many of the top people in the shipping industry every year. As usual, we are expecting an evening of excitement – and some surprises."

With these words in Greek, leading news reader and reporter Andriana Paraskevopoulou lifted the curtain on the 2012 Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards Dinner, and startled guests looking at the screens around the hotel ballroom may have believed that the ceremony was being flashed nationwide.

But the video was pre-recorded in the studios of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation, with the kind assistance of the state broadcaster, and Ms

Paraskevopoulou promptly appeared live on stage to co-host what proved – just as she had promised in her introduction - to be a memorable night.

A capacity 1,000-strong audience participated in the excitement of the annual awards gala, which was again supported by ClassNK as lead event sponsor and a host of award-sponsors. Guests also enjoyed the hospitality of ABS for a pre-dinner cocktail reception.

The surprises continued with a guest appearance by Sakis Rouvas, the country's top recording artist and heart throb, to present a charity donation on behalf of the organisers.

While well-known personalities from outside shipping added to the star-power of the occasion, the audience was packed with familiar industry personalities and the

winners themselves spanned the generations as venerable old names of the industry were honoured alongside some of the brightest new stars of the business.

Minister of Shipping and the Aegean Kostis Mousouroulis officially opened the proceedings, saying that the government guaranteed a stable environment for the country's leading industry and that it wished to support the shipping sector in every way that it could.

Speakers consistently underlined the capacity to endure that Greek shipping has shown in the face of this and previous market crises, as well as dwelling on the industry's responsibility to contribute to the country's economic recovery.

Although punctuated by sober messages, it was a buoyant evening that further enhanced the Greek Shipping Awards' reputation as





From left - Co-host Andriana Paraskevopoulou 'live' and (inset) recorded in the newsroom; guests arrive to a welcome cocktail hosted by ABS; Shipping minister Kostis Mousouroulis



both a great annual celebration as well as a showcase for some of the sector's leading personalities and most impressive achievements.

Individuals to win key awards included shipowner Michael Bodourogrou, who was named Personality of the Year and Harry Vafias who won the Newsmaker of the Year title. Among the 15 regular award categories, the Newsmaker is the sole award decided directly by Lloyd's List, the others being adjudicated by a prestigious panel broadly representing the nation's shipping community.

Greek shipping stalwart Stavros Daifas won the Lifetime Achievement Award while a first-ever posthumous award in the event's history was made to Maersk McKinney Møller, the International Personality of the Year, who died in 2012.

Top honours also went to some of the best-reputed privately-owned companies in the business. Modern Greek shipping's long history was well-represented by Neda Maritime Agency, chosen as Tanker Company of the Year about 140 years after its establishment, while the Dry Cargo Company of the Year Award was presented to Aegean Bulk Co., which has forged its reputation for quality in a rather shorter history.

Blue Star Ferries picked up an unprecedented third Passenger Line of the Year Award.

Danaos Corporation walked off with the Ship of the Year prize for its recently-delivered giant containership *Hyundai Ambition*. Another major boxship company, Costamare, saw one of its masters honoured as Seafarer of the Year. Capt Athanasios Pagkalos was recognised for rescuing a yachtsman in the Pacific last August.

Major service awards went to DVB Bank as Shipping Financier of the Year and Optima Shipbrokers.

DVB was recognised as one of the few remaining actively financing banks in a year which underlined its commitment to the Greek shipping sector.

Greece-based Optima has expanded impressively in recent years and is considered the largest in its sector. Its 'one stop shop' service to owners has been extended in spite of a difficult market for brokers.

The Piraeus International Centre Award was presented to Cosco Pacific-affiliate Piraeus Container Terminal for the Asian giant's landmark investment in the Greek port and subsequent growth.

The year's Technical Achievement Award was presented to the Greek section of the

international Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

The Tsakos Group was awarded for Achievement in Safety or Environmental Protection, while the Hydra Maritime Academy, the oldest such academy in Europe, was recognised with the Education or Training prize.

For a historic night it seemed appropriate when author and historian George M. Foustanos received a special Man of the Sea Award for a career dedicated first to the shipping business and then to chronicling modern Greek shipping history.

The Awards are officially supported by prominent bodies in Greek shipping, including the Union of Greek Shipowners, the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping and the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee. Supporting organizations also include the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association - Helmepe, the Hellenic Shipbrokers' Association, the Association of Greek Passenger Shipping Companies, the Propeller Club, International Port of Piraeus, WISTA Hellas, the Association of Banking & Financial Executives of Hellenic Shipping, and the Piraeus Association for Maritime Arbitration.

## Sakis shines a light on 'Argo'

MANY of the speakers taking to the podium at the 2012 Greek Shipping Awards spoke about giving to social causes. For our part, for the seventh consecutive year, we were pleased to offer a gesture of support to a Greek children's charity with maritime links.

On behalf of Lloyd's List and the Awards, singing star Sakis Rouvas presented the donation to Argo, a group that was formed in Greece in 1985 by seamen's wives who had children with special needs.

Since 2000, Argo has been a registered charity and today it remains dedicated to seafaring families' children with physical and learning disabilities. The charity is managed by an administrative council of seven elected members and two representatives appointed from the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation and the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping.

Argo cares for about 60 individuals of up to 45 years of age, providing a day care centre,

occupational training and various other services. The group deals with a variety of learning disabilities and conditions, including autism, providing education in small classes, a variety of activities, and psychological support for both the family and the individual with special needs.

### Sakis Rouvas

Sakis Rouvas is no stranger to ballots and awards; usually, he wins them.

After initial successes as a gymnast and athlete, he embarked on a professional career in music and show business. During the last two decades he has emerged as Greece's top star and recording artist.

A sprinkling of awards in 2012 confirm Sakis' enduring talent and popularity – including 'Man of the Year' for his charity work, and 'Artist of the Year' for the fourth consecutive year at the MAD Video Music Awards.

*Singing star Sakis Rouvas (right) presents a charity donation on behalf of the Greek Shipping Awards to president of Argo, Despina Papastelianou*

Previous career distinctions include representing Greece in the Eurovision Song Contest in 2004 and 2009, achieving a high place on both occasions.

In 2009 he was voted Entertainer of the Decade by Down Town magazine and has collected numerous annual accolades as a recording artist and performer. In 2010 he became the first-ever male cover of Cosmopolitan magazine.

In recent years Sakis has devoted much of his effort and time to working for children's charities. Since 2010 he has been the official Messenger for 'ELPIDA', the Association of Friends of Children with Cancer, headed by Marianna Vardinoyannis.

Sakis was delighted to lend some of his star quality for the evening to help put the spotlight on the work of Argo.

More information about Argo can be found at its website: [www.argonauts.gr](http://www.argonauts.gr)





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## ‘Καλησπέρα κυρίες και κύριοι...’

*A speech in Greek by Noboru Ueda, chairman & president of ClassNK, vice-chairman of the IACS Council, was greeted enthusiastically by the audience, setting the tone for the evening. This is an English translation.*

“GOOD evening ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of ClassNK, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you tonight. We are delighted to be sponsoring this prestigious event, and I am so happy to see leaders of the global shipping industry here again. Since ancient times Greece has been a cornerstone of the maritime world. A strong and resilient nature has seen the Greek shipping industry become a world leader in the maritime industry.

Now we see hard times around the world, but the Greek shipping industry still stands tall. The Greek fleet accounts for 16% of the world's merchant ships, and its further expansion is assured with the largest order book in the world.

### ‘Classification first’

We at ClassNK are proud to have made maritime history this year by becoming the first classification society to have over 200m gross tons on our register. Without any doubt, we owe our success to the continued strength and support of the maritime community of Greece.

I offer you my deepest thanks and I assure you that ClassNK will continue to provide the best services as the top classification society.

I am certain that the Greek shipping industry and ClassNK will steam ahead towards an even brighter future. Thank you very much, and enjoy your evening.”

*Since it established a Piraeus office in 1975, ClassNK has been committed to providing the highest level of service to the Greek maritime community. From newbuilding plan approval and the surveys and services necessary to keep a ship safe throughout its life, to cutting edge environmental research & development, ClassNK is working with leading Greek shipowners to ensure a safer, greener future for the industry.*

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## DRY CARGO COMPANY OF THE YEAR

*Peggy Papastavrou (centre), head of shipping and legal advisor of the Athens Exchange, presents the award to (from left) Constantinos (seated), George and Panayotis Angelopoulos*

ESTABLISHED as recently as 2000, Aegean Bulk took the vote of the judges five years after stablemate Arcadia Shipmanagement won the Tanker Company of the Year Award. The achievement made the Angelopoulos family shipping group the youngest winners of both the wet and dry sector awards.

Aegean Bulk was launched two years after Arcadia and has applied a similar philosophy to the dry bulk shipping business, concentrating on a high-quality fleet with a lower environmental footprint and investing in education and management systems.

Within the last decade Aegean Bulk has taken delivery of 15 new bulk carriers with an aggregate capacity of about 1.1m dwt, all purpose-built for the company in South Korean yards. The fleet, which had an average age of 3.3 years per vessel in 2012, is all under Greek flag and manned with Greek officers.

For the last five years, the group has operated its own modern training centre, certified by Det Norske Veritas.

The adjudication panel liked the fact that Aegean Bulk has been taking the environment seriously for a long time. In 2008, the company became the first to have a dry bulk carrier certified by the well-regarded Green Award Foundation, which for 14 years had focused on tankers. Following the certification of the panamax bulker Afovos, a programme to enrol the entire fleet in the Green Award scheme is well-advanced.

Landmarks in the company's development during 2012 saw the completion – for now – of its newbuilding programme with the delivery of four vessels. Two of these were supramaxes and two were the kamsarmaxes Anna Maria and Innovation, the first of their type delivered with a MAN electronically-

controlled engine that has already proven itself in service in reducing fuel consumption.

In August 2012, Aegean Bulk also became the first dry bulk specialist to be certified by DNV to the ISO 50001 standard on energy management, joining an elite group of ship operators around the world to have demonstrated the implementation of best practices for energy use and conservation.

Aegean Bulk had previously been certified by DNV for ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.

*The Dry Cargo Company of the Year Award was sponsored by the Athens Exchange S.A.*



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## TANKER COMPANY OF THE YEAR

*Neda Maritime managing director Stelios Vlassopoulos (right) accepts the award from Alexander Prokopakis, general manager of sponsoring company JetOil Bunkering*

THE adjudication panel seized the opportunity to recognise one of the most historic and highly-reputed names in the industry. Neda Maritime can chart about 140 years of continuous operation, making it one of the oldest of Greek shipping companies in existence today.

Since acquiring its first tanker, a T2 type after the end of the Second World War, it can claim an unbroken history of operating in the tanker industry and there have been numerous milestones along the way, including an early entry into the VLCC sector in the 1970s and later becoming a pioneer of the long-range product tanker market.

Not least among its claims to fame are, in 1990, having ordered the world's first double-hulled VLCC. Developed from scratch by the company together with Japanese builder Hitachi Zosen and Lloyd's Register, the vessel

was delivered in 1993 as the Arosa.

The iconic VLCC finally left the Neda fleet in 2012 at the age of 18 but was replaced by the arrival of two new VLCCs that are similarly seen as state-of-the-art for their times.

Built by Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, the new 320,000 dwt Aragona and sister tanker Aquila incorporate the latest notions in environmental friendliness with emphasis on curbing emissions.

The vessels are each powered by a MAN Diesel & Turbo S90 derated Mark 8.2 Tier II-compliant engine fitted with both cylinder cut-out and turbocharger cut-off systems, supporting slow and super-slow steaming.

Other measures to reduce fuel consumption include propeller efficiency technology and application of a minimum hull roughness hydrolysis silyl methacrylate copolymer based coating never before used on VLCC hulls.

The two vessels were built to a robust design drawing on experience in double-hulled LNG carrier design with respect to hull structure and cargo sloshing that can lead both to structural failure and increased vapour loss.

Previously certified for ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, Neda recently certified its systems and processes to the ISO 50001 standard, employing best practices for efficient energy use and conservation throughout its fleet, including the newly-built VLCC pair.

Accepting the award, managing director Stelios Vlassopoulos said: "The vision of our founding fathers in the 19th century was a commitment to a high quality modern Greek fleet. This vision remains totally valid today."

*The Tanker Company of the Year Award was sponsored by JetOil Bunkering.*



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## PASSENGER LINE OF THE YEAR

*Peter Rigby (right), chief executive of Informa, the publisher of Lloyd's List, presents the award to Spiros Paschalis, managing director of Attica Group*

DESPITE a crisis sweeping the entire sector, Blue Star Ferries has not compromised the quality of its services or, indeed, a well-developed corporate responsibility programme that went towards making it the outstanding operator in its category for 2012 in the eyes of the judges.

In June, 2012, Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering delivered the Blue Star Patmos, the second of a pair of modern ro-pax ferries the company ordered at an investment of more than €140m, following Blue Star Delos delivered the previous year.

The 26-knot ships each have capacity to carry 2,400 passengers and 427 cars - or 57 trucks of 10 m in length and 148 cars.

Blue Star now owns and operates a fleet of eight ferries serving more than 25 island destinations in the Aegean. As the domestic ferry arm of the Attica Group, a subsidiary

of Marfin Investment Group, the line takes its local links seriously, as evidenced by continuing social programmes that include a campaign to educate island communities in the dangers of exposure to the sun, protection and arrangement of free medical checks on specific islands, an employee blood donation drive, and an award-winning effort to highlight valuable island traditional crafts that are in danger of disappearing.

Accepting the award on behalf of Blue Star, Attica Group managing director and board member Spiros Ch. Paschalis said that the award was recognition of the continued efforts of staff at sea and ashore to operate efficiently for the benefit of the travelling public, the island population, Greek tourism and the economy overall. "Under the current challenging circumstances they are demonstrating their commitment to our company even more," he said.

"Despite the challenging conditions of our sector, our company has managed to improve its results this year and with an average fleet age of only 10 years is one of the very few European passenger shipping companies that continues its fleet renewal programme by taking delivery of brand-new newbuildings designed to provide first-class services to the Greek islands," Mr Paschalis said.

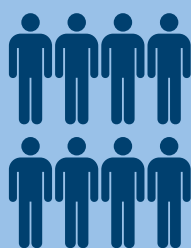
"The service we offer to the country will no doubt improve further if we manage to convince the state authorities to act fast and revise certain restricting and outdated regulations that affect operational issues in our sector," he said. "To this end we are in close cooperation with the authorities to align regulations to current needs and circumstances."



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## SHIPBROKER OF THE YEAR

*Minister of Shipping & the Aegean, Kostis Mousouroulis (right) presents the trophy to Optima Shipbrokers' managing director Dimitris Koukas*

GREECE's largest shipbroking company recently celebrated 30 years of existence and 25 years under the name Optima Shipbrokers, making it fitting that it should become the first two-time Shipbroker of the Year.

Optima had won the award in 2006. But in the six years since then it grew from 120 to 220 staff. The adjudication panel recognised that the growth was all the more impressive as depressed shipping markets had been the norm for much of this period.

The group has expanded with offices in Dubai (2007), Rio De Janeiro (2008) and Singapore (2010).

As well as expanding geographically and in scale, Optima has significantly expanded its services to enhance its ability to serve its predominantly Greek shipping clients as a 'one stop shop' for clients, as well as to help itself navigate through the present downturn.

Recent initiatives have included an expansion of Optima's shiprepair service, utilising existing relationships with shipyards, and the launch in late 2011 of Optima Finance as an additional in-house service to help clients access finance through options in the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Successes included a first arrangement of Chinese finance for a shipowner-client in 2012.

In spite of the slowdown in activity, Optima was among the most active shipbrokers in newbuilding contracts in 2012, especially in dry bulk carriers, negotiating a number of newcastlemaxes orders as well as eco-supramaxes and handymaxes. It also made its mark in the offshore sector with orders for a FPSO and a drilling rig.

In addition to newbuildings, Optima brokered more than 50 secondhand and resale deals in 2012.

It was also considered one of the two most active brokers worldwide in the demolition sector with more than 100 demolition sales within 2012 from the Athens office alone.

On the chartering side, it completed about 1,000 dry cargo fixtures and more than 600 fixtures by its tanker department.

Managing director Dimitris Koukas paid tribute to the founders of Optima back in 1981, Antonis Roussos and Costas Dinopoulos, saying that their philosophy of being united was a secret of the company's growth.

"Receiving this award this evening means a lot to the Optima family due to the fact that it comes in one of the toughest years in shipping history and such a recognition of our efforts and achievements gives us a psychological boost to keep improving and keep working 24/7 in what we love and have dedicated ourselves to," he said.





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## SHIPPING FINANCIER OF THE YEAR

*Milena Pappas (right), director of award-sponsor Star Bulk Carriers Corp., presents the trophy to managing director and board member of DVB Bank, Dagfinn Lunde*

AMONG the top one dozen lenders to the shipping industry globally and placed among the top five by size of Greek portfolio, DVB Bank was widely recognised as one of the very few banks to have continued lending to shipowners in 2012.

The bank, which took over Nedship Bank in 2000, can claim to have been supporting Greek owners for about 40 years, with an office in Greece for 33 of these. It recently moved to smart new offices in the Athens suburb of Palio Faliro, signalling an intention to continue financing Greek owners in the future.

Approaching end-2012, a Greek portfolio of \$2.7bn was the largest single-market exposure within DVB Bank, equivalent to 18% of DVB's global shipping portfolio.

In 2012, as competitor banks fell away, DVB paid out \$350m in new loans for Greek

owners in the first three-quarters of the year and was active in further transactions with about \$570m in additional loans in the pipeline for the fourth quarter of the year.

With a shortage of bank finance for owners, and numerous changes of personnel in many other banks, Greek owners have come to appreciate the bank's expertise and its prioritisation of shipping as a core business representing 60-65% of the bank's total business. Shipping veteran Dagfinn Lunde, the managing director who accepted the award, is also a board member.

DVB has been doing new lending for most traditional Greek types of vessel including dry bulk, containers and both product and crude tankers, but has also been prepared to consider offshore loans and LNG financing as Greek owners have diversified into these areas.

It has been able to offer added value thanks to a global structure adopted five years ago, whereby relationship managers are allocated according to sectoral specialisation.

Therefore, relationship managers can bring greater knowledge of worldwide shipowners' activities, charterers and trading conditions in their particular shipping sector to add to owners' knowledge.

That cross-border in-depth knowledge of particular sectors has, for example, brought a number of distressed containership deals from the German KG market to the benefit of Greek owners. Feedback from owners is that DVB's way of approaching shipping, and its expertise, has gained new appreciation among Greek owners in the last two years.

*The Shipping Financier of the Year Award was sponsored by Star Bulk Carriers Corp.*



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## TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Albrecht Grell (right), executive vice president of maritime solutions of Germanischer Lloyd, presents the award to SNAME Greek Section chairman Apostolos Papanikolaou (centre) and section secretary and founder Petros Lalangas*

THE Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers was established about 120 years ago in the US, setting the stage for a professional association of worldwide reach for those involved in shipbuilding and marine engineering.

There is currently an international membership of about 8,500 professionals and the Greek Section, founded in 2002, has become the largest branch outside North America.

The SNAME Greek branch won the award in its 10th anniversary year, capping a period that has seen an initial membership of 160 grow to double that number.

The judges recognised that SNAME and its members have collectively played an enormous role in supporting the technical ability underlying Greek shipping, its growth and its successful day-to-day operation.

The tribute follows soon after a triumphant participation by the Greek Section at the

October 2012 SNAME Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. The highlight of the meeting, a formal banquet, honoured the section with a display of the Greek flag and national anthem.

The Greek Section was also awarded a 'Top Super Section Banner' as the outright best of the 16 sections comprising SNAME, in recognition of the quality of its programme of monthly technical meetings and overall high operating standard.

One of SNAME's main objectives as a technical and educational non-profit organisation is making its valuable publications available at no-profit prices and in 2011-12 it reinforced its educational efforts by participating in the Eudoxos program running under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education.

Through the programme, it has enabled Greek students at the National Technical

University of Athens and the Technological Educational Institute of Athens to have access to hundreds of books at no cost, and the society has covered substantial shipping costs from the US and customs clearing charges.

According to the successful nomination, SNAME deserved the award for "encouraging exchange of information, sponsoring applied research, career guidance, education and enhancing the professional status of its membership."

Accepting the award, Professor Apostolos Papanikolaou, the chairman of the Greek Section, and Petros Lalangas, its secretary and manager of SNAME's European Regional Office which is based in Athens, in particular thanked the Angelicoussis Shipping Group and Elkco Marine Consultants for providing facilities for the section's meetings and administration.

*The Technical Achievement Award was sponsored by Germanischer Lloyd.*



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'Hyundai Ambition'

Winner



# SHIP OF THE YEAR



David Peel (right), manager of Europe, the Middle East and Africa for RightShip, presents the award to Danaos Corporation's vice president and chief operating officer, Iraklis Prokopakis (left) The winning ship: 'Hyundai Ambition'

JUDGES were free to appraise candidate ships from a variety of perspectives and the winner, Danaos Corporation's Hyundai Ambition ticks several major boxes for an exceptional vessel.

First of all, it is an iconic ship as the largest containership yet built for a Greek owner and it brought to a close Danaos' newbuilding programme, one of the largest individual newbuild programmes in the containership industry.

Delivered by builder Hyundai Heavy Industries on June 29, 2012, the Hyundai Ambition became Danaos' 64th boxship overall and the last of a series of five 13,100 teu vessels that are under charter to Hyundai Merchant Marine for 12 years.

Apart from its size, the vessel ranked highly in the estimation of the adjudication panel for its environmental profile and for putting the

latest information technology at the service of the vessel's management and crew.

Hyundai Ambition is fitted with an electronically-controlled main engine in compliance with Tier II IMO Nox emissions standards and the phase II IMO EEDI INDEX, equipped with turbocharger cut-out measures. According to Danaos it is capable of super-slow steaming down to 10% of the maximum engine load.

The vessel is equipped with an advanced performance monitoring system with on-line analysis for power measurement and multi-stations alarm monitoring controls. It underwent extensive trim optimisation tests to enhance performance and is coated with the latest silyl SPC coatings.

Danaos has been a leader in IT applications in the maritime industry and Hyundai Ambition has state-of-the-art IT. The vessel's crew has

not been forgotten with wired and wireless communication and entertainment systems offering internet and entertainment in all crew cabins and mess rooms. There is also a centralized video and music centre offering onboard movies and music, as well as satellite TV in crew public spaces.

Accepting the award, Danaos' senior vice president and chief operating officer Iraklis Prokopakis said: "This vessel is a typical example of the Danaos corporate mentality. She reflects the very early views of [chairman and chief executive] John Coustas that the future of the container industry will be in the ultra large container vessels."

The Ship of the Year Award was sponsored by RightShip.



# Greek Shipping's 'Dinner of 2012'

It's all about the coveted Greek Shipping Awards trophies (right) - but everyone seemed to have a good time, too.



Inset above: Renowned raiser of finance Angeliki Frangou helps raise DVB's Financier of the Year trophy



Well-known television newsreader and journalist Andriana Paraskevopoulou joined Nigel Lowry of Lloyd's List to host the glittering event



The ABS-hosted cocktail party established a vibrant pre-Christmas mood



Everyone loves a winner: above, Irene Daifas, who collected the Lifetime Achievement trophy on behalf of father Stavros Daifas, receives plenty of attention while (below) Personality of the Year Michael Bodourolou had plenty of support to help celebrate



★ THE WINNERS ★ Lloyd's List GREEK SHIPPING AWARDS 2012



ClassNK chairman and president Noboru Ueda raises his glass with Charalambos Mylonas of Transmed Shipping



The view from the control box: a strong team behind-the-scenes ensured an ambitious awards gala went without a hitch

Lloyd's List GREEK SHIPPING AWARDS 2012



Owners unite: from left - Vafias Group founder Nicholas Vafias, Aristides Pittas of Euroseas and Petros Pappas of Oceanbulk



National Bank of Greece chief executive Alex Tourkolias (left) with Antonis Comninos, founder of Target Marine



Safe Bulk's chief executive Polys Hajioannou (left) together with Unicredit's Vassilis Mantzavinos



George Arcadis and Melina Tsaila of ABN Amro



Dorothea Ioannou, general manager of Shipowners Claims Bureau (Hellas), with the American Club's chairman and chief executive Joe Hughes

★ THE WINNERS ★



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## PIRAEUS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AWARD

Panos G. Moraitis (right), chief executive of Aspida Maritime Security Corp., presents the trophy to Zhang Anming, deputy general manager of Piraeus Container Terminal

PIRAEUS Container Terminal S.A. is the local operation established by Cosco Pacific to manage two piers of the container-handling terminal in Greece's largest port.

Cosco Pacific, the terminal arm of China's Cosco Group, won a tender for a 35-year concession to operate the facility from 2009 onwards.

It received the award on a number of grounds, including its pioneering investment in Greece, exceptional operational performance, and sentiment among the adjudication panel that Cosco Pacific's success with a public Greek asset could light the way to encourage others to invest in the country's ailing economy.

Indeed, the results of the investment have so far been encouraging enough to fuel speculation that the Cosco Group may be interested in further investments in Piraeus port or even the wider Greek port sector. The company is said to pay €100m annually

for the use of the operative Pier II that it took over from the state-controlled Piraeus Port Authority, and the prospective use of Pier III which is scheduled to begin operations in 2013.

According to PCT, it has invested €170m in the infrastructure and equipment of Pier II, and has sunk €180m into construction of Pier III.

But the numbers are compelling and suggest that Cosco is turning the Greek port into a world-class container hub, with the many logistical benefits that it is likely to bring to the country.

Piraeus' container movements in 2012 were forecast to have expanded to more than 2.7m teus - from the 1.65m teus handled the previous year - in the process breaking the port's record.

Cosco's operation contributed more than 2.1m of this, shattering its target volume.

The Chinese group is adding the latest equipment to what is clearly its flagship terminal project in southern Europe, including the addition of 12 electrified rubber-tired gantry cranes that have a reach of 26 rows across a ship, exceeding the requirements of the biggest boxships currently under construction.

Accepting the award, PCT's deputy general manager Zhang Anming said that despite pressures from the start, the investment was a "strategic" one and the Cosco Group had faithfully honoured all the terms of the concession agreement.

"Our company's goal is to establish Piraeus as the biggest container terminal in the central and eastern Mediterranean. Greece can soon become a key player in the Asia-Europe logistics service," said Mr Zhang.

The Piraeus International Centre Award was sponsored by Aspida Maritime Security Corp.



Share our Passion for Shipping



## INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



Evangelos Marinakis (right), president and chief executive of Capital Maritime & Trading Corp., presents the award to Johan Pedersson Uggle, managing director of APM Terminals, Denmark. Mr Uggle was accepting the award on behalf of his grandfather (left) The late Maersk Mc-Kinney Møller

MAERSK Mc-Kinney Møller died in April 2012, moving the adjudication panel to confer the first posthumous award in the nine-year history of the Greek Shipping Awards. It was a fitting tribute from the Greek shipping community to a business personality of exceptional standing and a towering figure of world shipping.

Mr Møller was the world's largest shipowner – one obituary claimed he was the greatest shipping magnate "since Agamemnon!". He was the most influential individual in the growth of the container shipping industry after containerisation's "inventor" Malcolm McLean – due to Maersk's continual service innovations and ever-larger and more efficient ships.

Denmark's most powerful business leader of modern times, he built the group from a successful European shipping line into a global giant with more than 100,000 employees and

a turnover equivalent to one fifth of Denmark's gross national product.

The containerships transport about 15% of seaborne trade in manufactured goods. Maersk also operates a huge tanker fleet, manages container terminals all over the world, owns a major oil and gas exploration company in the North Sea, and has diversified into supermarkets.

Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller was made partner in the managing firm of A.P. Møller-Maersk A/S in 1940 when he went to New York to supervise transfer to the Allies of Maersk ships which remained out of German hands. He became senior partner and chairman of the shipping companies, the shipyard, other companies and the foundations after his father, A.P. Møller's death on 12 June 1965, and he remained chief executive until 1993 and chairman until 2003, when he nominally handed over the reins.

But he went to the office daily, walking up the stairs to the 6th floor until 2012, and continued to have a key say in major strategic developments.

Mr Møller lived unostentatiously despite his fortune and was an icon of trust in business – for banks, business partners, investors and his employees alike. He was also a noted philanthropist.

Accepting the award, his grandson Johan Pedersson Uggle, managing director of APM Terminals, Denmark, said: "My grandfather always expressed a deep respect for the Greek shipping community, pointing in particular to your strong entrepreneurial skills and your ability always to recognise opportunities even in very difficult times.

The International Personality of the Year Award was sponsored by Capital Ship Management Corp.



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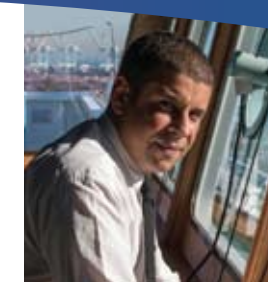
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Captain Athanasios Pagkalos

Winner



## SEAFARER OF THE YEAR



George A. Tsavliris (right), principal of the sponsoring Tsavliris Salvage Group, presents the award to Capt. Pangkalos' wife Angeliki Vrana (left) Winner: Capt. Athanasios Pagkalos

SINCE going to sea as a cadet in 1993, Athanasios Pagkalos has spent his entire 19 years as a professional seafarer with Costamare Shipping Co., serving aboard no less than 20 of the company's container vessels, the last seven as master.

The 38 year-old master was nominated as Seafarer of the Year for a rescue carried out on August 7, 2012, under the auspices of the Amver worldwide search and rescue system.

Commanded by Captain Pagkalos, the 2010-built containership Navarino safely plucked an ailing 72 year-old Canadian sailor from a 44 ft sailing boat about 1,000 miles off Hawaii after diverting from its course.

The assisted sailor was taken to Los Angeles, the Navarino's destination port, where he underwent medical examinations,

and later returned home in good health.

The Navarino is employed in the US West Coast-Asia trade on a 35-day round itinerary. Although he says that the Pacific can be rough in winter, Capt Pagkalos has enjoyed commanding all the vessels on which he has served as master.

"I have never regretted my decision to become a seaman," he says. "I believe it the most honest profession there is. It is nevertheless a hard job, but it gives a lot and takes a lot, too."

In spite of the importance of maritime tradition to the country, he believes that the profession is not sufficiently appreciated in Greece.

Capt Pagkalos was still serving aboard the Navarino on the night of the Awards dinner but was represented by his wife Angeliki, and he gave his own acceptance speech in a

video message recorded in the Port of Los Angeles a few days earlier.

According to Capt Pagkalos, the transfer operation went smoothly and the weather conditions helped as well.

"I really believe I did not do any more than any other mariner would have done in a similar situation," he told the audience. "I would like to thank my crew for their professionalism and dedication to carry out this rescue successfully. They deserve more credit than I do."

The Seafarer of the Year Award was sponsored by the Tsavliris Salvage Group.



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## ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING

*George Patentas (right),  
director of Nautilus Pacific  
Training Center, presents the award  
to Lieutenant Commander Ioannis  
Belegris, commandant of the Hydra  
Maritime Academy*

THE Maritime Academy of Hydra was chosen by the adjudication panel for the 2012 Award for Achievement in Education or Training with an eye both to the past and the future.

The school for deck officers falls under the aegis of the Ministry of Shipping and the Aegean and the commandant, as well as a number of staff members, are officers of the Hellenic Coast Guard.

Currently it has 167 cadets and offers about 35-40 places for new students annually. Since 2007, which saw the first ever female intake, about 10% of the new cadets each year have been young women.

The Hydra Academy's singular claim to fame is to be the oldest surviving maritime college internationally. It traces its operation back to 1749 when it was formed as the School of Aghios Vassilis. In 1880 it became a naval school before reverting to merchant marine training in the 20th century.

After a few years of private operation, in 1930 it became a state academy and since then has trained a total of 3,700 cadets. The academy has operated without interruption, even during the German and Italian Occupation of Greece when it was temporarily re-housed in Piraeus.

The academy offers four-year sandwich courses including two six-month semesters of onboard training.

Most of the major, top-tier Greek shipping companies – including but not limited to the Angelicoussis Shipping Group, Arcadia, Costamare, Eastern Mediterranean, Eletson, Marmaras, Navios and Neda - have provided cadet places and have frequently drawn second mates from the Hydra Academy.

With education among the sectors of Greek society hard hit by its economic crisis, the school has had to battle to maintain academic excellence and has received aid from the

shipping community, with the Angelicoussis Group prominent in helping the school maintain itself. New equipment is also awaited under an EU-funded programme.

But the challenges facing the system are illustrated by the fact that the academy's kitchen was forced to close in 2012 due to lack of funds.

As well as honouring the Academy for its history and work, the panel wished to send a message of support to staff and students.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Academy, its commandant, Lieutenant Commander Ioannis Belegris, said: "Thank you for this award. This will give us courage to continue to deliver capable personnel."

*The Award for Achievement in Education or Training was sponsored by Nautilus Pacific Training Center.*



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WINNERS OF THE 2010 SEATRADE YOUNG PERSON IN SHIPPING GLOBAL AWARD

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## SPECIAL AWARD MAN OF THE SEA

*Efthimios E. Mitropoulos (right), secretary general emeritus of the International Maritime Organisation, presents the award to George M. Foustanos*

GEORGE Foustanos is truly a man of the sea, and of shipping. He is one of only two Greeks who can point to having three great grandfathers who owned steamships prior to the First World War.

Trained as a naval architect and marine engineer, he became a shipowner and served on the board of the Union of Greek Shipowners for 16 years. For much of this period, he also served the Union by taking responsibility for its public relations.

However he gave up the shipowning business to become a chronicler of Greek shipping, editing the magazine 'Argo' for two decades and writing more than 30 books.

His titles include the popular 'Kings of the Ocean' series and other volumes covering newbuildings ordered by Greeks since the Second World War, 'Onassis – Pioneer in Shipping', as well as books on Lemos,

Hellenic Lines, the 100 Liberty Ships that helped rebuild post-war Greek shipping, ports, passengerships and other topics.

Recently he plunged into a new phase of his career, preparing the launch of an online museum for the industry, named Greek Shipping Miracle, with the help of a team of young assistants.

The site will draw on a formidable maritime archive Mr Foustanos has built up over the years, that has reached 5,000 books and almost 500,000 images, mainly devoted to Greek shipping subjects.

Accepting the 'Man of the Sea' Award, Mr Foustanos said: "This distinction also reflects on the subject of my work, in other words it honours the overall performance of the Greek shipping community in the world's seaborne trade and its enormous contribution to the international economy

and the prosperity of the people of the world.

"Following my research for over 22 consecutive years I have concluded that if one attempts to wipe out the work performed by Greek-owned shipping after World War 2, he will come out with a totally different status of many national economies all over the world as well as the global economy itself.

"This is good to remember, especially during a time of crisis for our country such as today."

*The Man of the Sea Award is a discretionary award not open to public competition. It is presented by Lloyd's List in conjunction with the Greek Shipping Awards.*



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## ACHIEVEMENT IN SAFETY OR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Apostolos Poulouvassilis (left), regional marine manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa for Lloyd's Register, presents the award to Tsakos Group founder Capt. Panagiotis Tsakos*

THE Tsakos Group has enjoyed a fine reputation for safety and environmental matters for many years and is considered to be among the most trusted Greek operators in these respects.

The group's culture of continuous improvement was well-encapsulated in 2010 when it joined forces with Schoeller Holdings, a well-regarded name in shipmanagement as the owner of Columbia Shipmanagement, to create Tsakos Columbia Shipmanagement.

The first joint venture of its type between a major Greece-based shipowner and a third-party shipmanagement outfit, Tsakos Columbia was formed to continue and enhance the company's traditional shipmanagement operation and pool the know-how of the two teams.

Tsakos Columbia has become the first company in Greece to request a Safety

Culture Assessment from Lloyd's Register, demonstrating its commitment to safety as well as its staff.

It has already established and implemented an Environmental Management System throughout the organisation, committing itself to zero spills, a safe working environment and establishing safeguards against all identified environmental risks, among other principles.

The company has also established procedures to manage and monitor those aspects in accordance with ISO 14001:2004.

At the same time, publicly-listed affiliate Tsakos Energy Navigation is the only Greek member of the Sustainable Shipping Initiative, a think-tank for the shipping industry that in 2012 embarked on a work-programme to deliver long-term sustainability to the shipping industry.

TEN was an early member, joining at the same

time as major charterers, Cargill and Rio Tinto, shortly after the initiative was launched by founders including BP Shipping, Maersk Line, Lloyd's Register and Dutch bank ABN Amro. SSI is said to be looking at all sustainable issues, such as the carbon regime and crewing, from an operational perspective and help shape the industry's approach towards them.

The successful nomination for the Tsakos Group said that TEN is actively contributing to the SSI's aims with its shipowning and operating expertise.

"The Tsakos Group is also very proactive in issues of safety and the human element," according to the nomination.

*The Award for Achievement in Safety or Environmental Protection was sponsored by Lloyd's Register.*





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**Stavros Antonios Daifas**

**Winner**



## LLOYD'S LIST/PROPELLER CLUB LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



*Irene Daifas (left) accepts the trophy on behalf of her father from Christos Kokkinis, head of shipping for award-sponsor Alpha Bank.*

*(left) Winner: Stavros Antonios Daifas*

STAVROS Daifas is recognised as a stalwart of the Piraeus shipping community, both as an ever-present shipping businessman in the decades since the Second World War and by virtue of his participation in some of the community's most cherished institutions.

He was born into a family of seafarers and sailing ship owners in the city of Kalamata in the southern Peloponnese, but his dreams of becoming a captain himself were dashed by the war. After the liberation of Greece, he was forced to start from scratch and he embarked on his own entrepreneurial career at age 17, beginning with small sailing caiques.

Soon he had purchased a first motor ship of 500 t and thereafter concentrated on Mediterranean-trading freighters. The beginning of the 1970s marked a first newbuilding order for a Freedom-type multipurpose vessel at IHI,

Japan, and within a few years Daifas Stavros Marine Enterprises was managing a fleet of about 12, mainly multipurpose, vessels. During the 1980s, the fleet was renewed with handysize bulk carrier newbuildings and in recent years the group has also invested in panamax and kamsarmax bulkers.

Daifas-linked vessels have always had a reputation for being well-built and well-maintained.

Mr Daifas joined the board of the Union of Greek Shipowners at a critical point in the union's evolution and served as a member until 1991, for many years holding the position of vice-president.

Outside shipping, he is well-known for his allegiance to Olympiakos, Piraeus' football club, of which he was president from 1979 to 1987, leading the club to five consecutive championships.

On the night of the 2012 Greek Shipping Awards, Mr Daifas was recuperating after an operation.

Accepting the Lloyd's List / Propeller Club Lifetime Achievement Award on his behalf, daughter Irene Daifas told the audience that her father's philosophy had also guided her own approach to life and the shipping business.

"For many years my father has said to me that no dream becomes reality by magic. It takes sweat, desire, belief, integrity and a lot of hard work.

"However when you give all of yourself to what you believe in, then you get back even more in return, and I believe that too," Ms Daifas said.

*The Lloyd's List / Propeller Club Lifetime Achievement Award was sponsored by Alpha Bank*

Lloyd's List GREEK SHIPPING AWARDS 2012

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## GREEK SHIPPING NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR

*Harry Vafias (left) receives the Newsmaker of the Year Award from George Xiradakis, founder and managing director of XRTC Business Consultants*

NEWSMAKER of the Year is the sole category of award that is decided directly by Lloyd's List rather than by the adjudication panel. Once again, despite the continuing crisis in shipping markets, there were numerous strong candidates in 2012.

Harry Vafias might easily have won the award back in 2005 when he became the youngest chief executive of a US-listed shipping company. He did not then but merited it in 2012 for steering StealthGas through the shipping storm and positioning it for growth.

A busy year did not stop at that as Mr Vafias hit the headlines also for his characteristically forthright responses to a long-running duel with operator Grand China Logistics over charter hire payments. He also found time to get married.

But the award reflects primarily his leadership of StealthGas, which saw its stock rise steadily during the year from \$4 per share to more than \$8, making it an outstanding success story when seen against the fortunes of most tanker companies in the public markets.

Mr Vafias, the company's founder, has consistently championed the handysize LPG sector as a safe haven from the volatility and overcapacity of other shipping sectors. In 2012 this yielded multiplied profits and appreciation for the wisdom of the company's strategy widened.

StealthGas took advantage of rising rates in the industry to lock in a large part of its fleet on healthy long-term charters.

Unafraid to innovate commercially, Mr Vafias has emerged as the country's biggest user of bareboat charters, starting with privately-

held tankers but extending this to the StealthGas fleet. During the year he also supported the operation by chartering in some of the LPG carriers himself.

The company ended the year on a high note, acquiring four newbuilding LPG carriers that were initially ordered privately by the Vafias group in South Korea.

Finance was also arranged for the vessels which are of a new eco-type and are due to be delivered in the first half of 2014. According to Mr Vafias, he is evaluating opportunities for further growth before then.

*The Newsmaker of the Year Award was sponsored by XRTC Business Consultants.*



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\*Source: Petrofin Bank Research April 2012



**Lambros Varnavides**  
RBS Global Head of Shipping



## GREEK SHIPPING PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

*Michael Bodouroglou (right) accepts the award from Lambros Varnavides, global head of shipping for Royal Bank of Scotland*

SHIPOWNER Michael Bodouroglou had a highly active 2012, impressing as a personality on numerous different fronts, not least in leading two US publicly-listed shipping companies.

For dry bulk carrier owner Paragon Shipping, which Mr Bodouroglou founded and led to its initial public offering in 2007, it was a year of growth with delivery of the first units in a series of six handysize newbuildings.

At the same time it was a year demanding close management of the company's capital expenditure and financing exposure in light of the deterioration in dry bulk shipping markets. However, 2012 ended on a bright note as Mr Bodouroglou negotiated a rescheduling of debt repayments as well as covenant waivers with the company's major lenders, pitching in himself with \$10m worth of new shares to increase Paragon's capital.

Mr Bodouroglou also stepped up to the plate to grow his containership company Box Ships Inc. which he successfully floated in 2011. Box Ships expanded to nine vessels with acquisition of a pair of 5,344 TEU post-panamax vessels – its largest to date – with attractive charters back to CMA CGM.

When the company could not raise funds as quickly and as competitively as it wished through the stock market, Mr Bodouroglou salvaged what appears to be an attractive deal by financing part of it himself. The company subsequently raised cash in a follow-on offering.

Mr Bodouroglou's private company Allseas Marine was also active. Mr Bodouroglou snapped up one of the most noted distress deals in the bulk carrier sector, acquiring three 2011-built supramaxes and one handysize previously associated with Allied Maritime.

Mr Bodouroglou has also been influential as a tireless speaker and contributor to industry fora and conferences.

The panel recognised him as a highly energetic player in today's Greek shipping community. He has been particularly outspoken about chartering defaults as an industry problem.

Accepting the award as Greek Shipping Personality of the Year, Mr Bodouroglou said: "As an industry we are facing great challenges right now, but things will be better – it has always been like that.

"I am sure the upside will come, as always, and I am certain summer will follow winter. So let's not lose our spirit, and let's be resilient."

*The Greek Shipping Personality of the Year Award was sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland.*





#### MINISTER Kostis Mousouroulis:

"The Lloyd's List Greek Awards tonight pays tribute to some of the industry's most outstanding achievers. We are proud of them. Shipping as you know is a sector of national dominance in which we will continue to invest. Our country's tradition is our basic weapon and our competitive advantage."



#### HOST Andriana Paraskevopoulou:

"We Greeks are our obstinacy. Our endurance, like our seas. Whatever signs of sickness may appear, they do not overwhelm us. So Greek shipping survives and continues to flourish in the maelstrom of difficulties. For the same strength, faith, and love which everyone in this room shares, for the white and blue in every corner of our beautiful land, it is my great pleasure and honour to be with you for the 9th Greek Shipping Awards."

#### WINNER Stelios Vlassopoulos, Neda Maritime Agency:

"Having taken delivery of our first newbuilding ship in 1896 and the most recent just a few weeks ago, our continuous track record of newbuildings has spanned three consecutive centuries. We acquired our first tanker only recently – in 1947..."



#### JUDGE Efthimios Mitropoulos:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow judges for their cooperation in selecting the best among the very good candidates. Thank you."



#### WINNER Dagfinn Lunde, DVB Bank:

"Thank you all our customers for paying us back and thank you for the good business. Let's make 2013 another good year in spite of the shipping business."

#### WINNER Dimitris Koukas, Optima Shipbrokers:

"We are here because of you. The rest of the planet is quite jealous of your achievements and says that shipping is in the genes of the Greeks. Let's admit it – genes are good but if you don't add endless hours of work, sweat, blood and tears, genes alone are not good enough."



## 'Old values and strong virtues'



Johan Pedersson Uggla recalls his grandfather, Maersk Mc-Kinney Møller

## What they said...



#### WINNER Harry Vafias, Newsmaker of the Year:

"I only have two requests from the audience. One – please stop ordering newbuildings; there are already too many and we won't find a balance if we don't stop ordering newbuildings. And two - please help the poorer people. Even a small amount helps. We are not talking about big figures, just help."

#### SPONSOR Peggy Papastavrou, the Athens Exchange:

"Greek shipping has so many examples of excellence to show to us all that can inspire us. We Greeks always emerge stronger from crises."



#### HOST Nigel Lowry:

"I represent a 278 year-old newspaper, Lloyd's List, which you might say has stood the test of time. So has Greek shipping. Greek shipping is a phenomenon internationally, yet it remains a national cause, too. It has learned how to endure and to regenerate itself successfully, no matter what. With help from its shipping community, Greece as a nation is not only going to survive, it is going to flourish."



#### SPONSOR Evangelos Marinakis, Capital Maritime & Trading Corp.:

"There are some – very few – people around the world who care not only about the profitability of their companies, but they care about their commitment to the environment, their commitment to technology, for their crews, their people, their country, for the world of shipping."



#### SPONSOR George Tsavlis, Tsavlis Salvage Group:

"Seamen are confronted with situations they have never faced before in their career, with piracy and criminalisation. Technology has developed whereby ships are safer but nevertheless seamen and their families have to face unprecedented risks over and above the natural dangers of the sea."



#### MINISTER Kostis Mousouroulis:

"We will ensure that Greek shipping is and remains competitive. For the Greek government, it is important that the shipping community has a stable structural environment. We are guaranteeing this and it remains a priority for our government."

#### WINNER Michael Bodourolou, Personality of the Year:

"I think that these awards are not so much about individual achievement but they are more about the values with which we run our companies, the visions that we have and of course more than anything – teamwork."



#### WINNER George Angelopoulos, Aegean Bulk Co.:

"At times such as these we are going through, words lose their meaning unless they are accompanied by actions. For that reason our father, my brother and I decided – following the example of our grandfather Panagiotis Angelopoulos – to announce here tonight a donation of an ultra-modern linear accelerator to the Saint Savvas cancer treatment hospital. At these moments whatever you do for your country is little."



#### WINNER Johan Pedersson Uggla, APM Terminals:

"My grandfather was a man of old values and strong virtues. He kept reminding us younger ones to be cautious and humble particularly during easy and booming times as well as to be optimistic and seek opportunities especially during bearish and difficult times. Today the AP Møller-Maersk group continues to have important relations throughout the Greek shipping community and I am sure that we will continue to work together and our businesses will continue to prosper."



#### WINNER Capt Athanasios Pagkalos, Seafarer of the Year:

"And to my wife, Angelina I hope you are as proud of me as I am of you."

#### SPONSOR Lambros Varnavides, Royal Bank of Scotland:

"2012 has been a difficult year for us in shipping. Unusually for a banker I am optimistic for 2013 and I think when you hold the 2013 Awards we'll all be much happier."



#### GUEST Sakis Rouvas:

"You are the people who carry the Greek flag around the world. You are people with vision, strong people. Which makes me wonder sometimes why we don't have some of you in parliament. Good captains prove themselves in rough seas and we need good captains these days."



#### HOST Nigel Lowry:

"Mr Ueda, I have to explain: Sakis is very, VERY important in Greece – like sake in Japan."



#### SPONSOR Panos Moraitis, Aspida Maritime Security Corp.:

"Every time with those [short] mikes! You [Nigel] wear that Madonna microphone and you tend to forget there are other tall people here!"





## A year of tough choices

SHIPPING has endured tough times in recent years, but that did not make life any easier for the judges tasked with selecting the winners of the 2012 Greek Shipping Awards.

In fact, the call for nominations drew one of the strongest responses in memory, resulting in an unprecedented field of candidates for some of the most prestigious award categories, such as the Dry Cargo Company and Tanker Company of the Year.

Another panel distinguished by luminaries of the shipping industry had to wrestle with a shoal of nominations in the 13 categories that are effectively open to anyone to submit nominations. The exceptions among the 15 regular awards are the Seafarer of the Year Award, where a short list of candidates is proposed exclusively by the Hellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO), and the Newsmaker of the Year, which is decided directly by editorial staff of Lloyd's List.

Honouring a tradition of scrupulous democracy in deciding the outcome of the Awards, discussion and in some cases argument during the 2012 adjudication meeting was robust,

resulting in some of the closest voting in the history of the Greek Shipping Awards.

In addition to bringing their collective knowledge to bear on assessing the field of nominees for each award, the judges in effect act as guarantors of the integrity of the process.

The credibility that the Greek Shipping Awards have earned has been an important ingredient in their success since their inception in 2004.

The judges can only select the winners from the list of nominees submitted in writing before the deadline each year and the wider shipping community's participation in the process has been another key ingredient in the awards' repute.

Nominations collected each year invariably produce a strong line-up of candidates for the various awards, although there is always scope for additional proposals and, especially, always room for well-supported candidacies with powerful arguments in favour of a candidate's credentials as a winner.

*The Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards thanks the judging panel for 2012, the PNO and everyone who submitted nominations.*

### 2012 JUDGING PANEL

*Pictured left to right:*

**Maria Vassara**

Chief Editor and Presenter, *Aeinartes - The Greeks and the Sea*, Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation

**Prof. Apostolos Papanikolaou**

Chairman of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Greek Section; Director of the Ship Design Laboratory, NTUA

**Alexandros Tourkolias**

President of the Association of Banking and Financial Executives of Hellenic Shipping

**Vassilis Logothetis**

Vice-president of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping

**Rea Metropoulou**

President of WISTA Hellas

**Nigel Lowry**

Athens Correspondent of *Lloyd's List*

**Efthimios E. Mitropoulos**

Secretary General Emeritus of the International Maritime Organization

**Haralambos Fafalios**

Chairman of the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee

**Leonidas Demetriades-Eugenides**

President of the Eugenides Foundation

**Capt. John Halas**

General Secretary of the Panhellenic Seamens Federation

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