

GREEK SHIPPING AWARDS 2019

The Winners





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Awards & Winners



GREEK SHIPPING AWARDS 2019

WRITER

Nigel Lowry

DESIGN PRODUCTION

Typoshop - typoshop.gr

AWARDS MANAGEMENT

Event Director - Nigel Lowry
 Event & Guest Co-ordination Office
 Tel. +30 210 42 91 195
 email: office@greekshippingawards.gr

SPONSORSHIP & ADVERTISING SALES

Janet Wood
 +350.5600.4567
 email: janetwood1@icloud.com

EVENT PRODUCTION

360 Event - www.360.com.gr

PHOTOGRAPHER

Photoshop Company
 Tel. +30 210 72 17 666

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Nikos Kokkalias

AWARD TROPHIES

Raoul Bollani - www.monilegioielli.com

Creations for Andriana Paraskevopoulou
 designed by Atelier Laskos
 Tel. +30 6940.626.050
 239 Leof. Syngrou - laskosofficial@gmail.com

Andriana Paraskevopoulou's Jewellery
 provided by Chopard Boutique
 2 Stadiou Street, Athens
 Tel. +30 210 32.50.555 - www.kassis.net

MUSIC

Percussion4one

VENUE

Athinaeum InterContinental Hotel, Athens

Lloyd's List
 Editorial, Advertising and
 Subscriptions inquiries
 Informa Business Information
 Christchurch Court, 10-15 Newgate Street,
 London EC1A 7AZ
 Tel. +44 (0) 20 7017 5000

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The 2019 winners were acclaimed by an audience of more than 1,100 guests gathered at the Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel

Night of suspense showcases new tunes and old favourites

HELD on the cusp of 2020 and the implementation of the International Maritime Organization's new low-sulphur regime, the 16th annual Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards celebrated the best that the industry had to offer in the previous year but also gave more than a passing nod to the increasing challenges facing ships and their owners.

'Mission Impossible' was the theme of the event, held at the Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel with an audience of more than 1,100 dinner guests. It pointed to the extraordinary success, against all odds, of Greece as a small nation topping the league table of world shipping capacity.

The Mission Impossible franchise began as a TV series during the 1960s and early 1970s when the legendary 'Golden Greeks' such as Onassis, Niarchos and Lemos were at the height of their powers and Greek shipping made its mark globally. It has continued into the present day with the Tom Cruise-starring big-screen series at a time when Greece's leading place in shipowning and

shipmanagement has been an established fact for decades.

The resourcefulness and adaptability of the Greek shipping community from generation-to-generation has only become more widely appreciated as the financial, technological and regulatory hurdles the industry has had to overcome have become more demanding.

The 'Mission Impossible'-inspired staging and video content, as well as live action-movie music from Greece-based band Percussion4One, was also apt for an evening of suspense that revealed the winners of the 18 Award-categories for 2019.

Few attending the event would have left without a sense of a traditional industry being reinvigorated before their eyes with new names, new blood and new thinking.

A surprising number of the annual Awards were won by relatively new companies, albeit driven by well-experienced teams.

Examples were M/Maritime, hailed as 'Dry

Cargo Company of the Year', Xclusiv Shipbrokers, which took the shipbroking Award, and probunkers, winner of 'The Sustainability Award', being presented for the first time. All three companies were launched within the last three years.

Levante Ferries, which was awarded the 'Passenger Line of the Year' prize, was a scarcely older winner, having launched operations in 2014.

Generational change was also in the air and not only in the Next Generation Shipping Award that was won by Nikolas Martinos of Thenamaris. He dedicated the Award to "the next generation which is here with me from Thenamaris", although he also paid tribute to his grandmother and parents who established and developed one of the country's most highly reputed shipping companies.

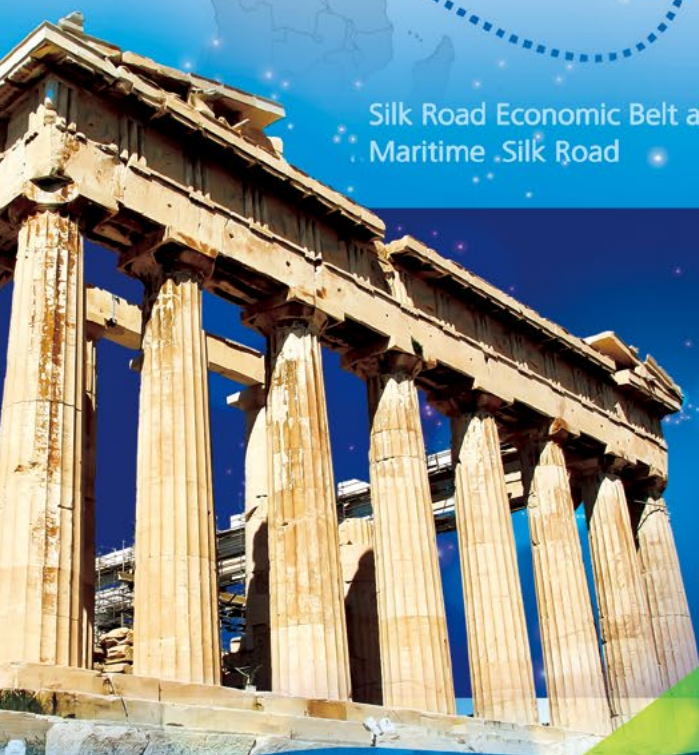
It was evident, too, in the 'Tanker Company of the Year' Award to Latsco Shipping, which continues the Latsis Group's 70-year journey in the industry. The trophy was jointly accepted by the founder's grandson, Paris →



Guests were greeted at the welcome reception, hosted by sponsor Erma First



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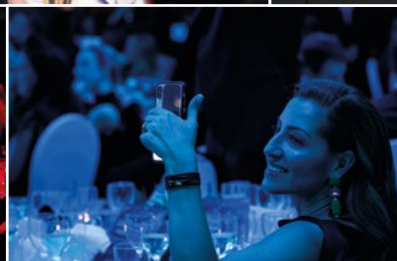
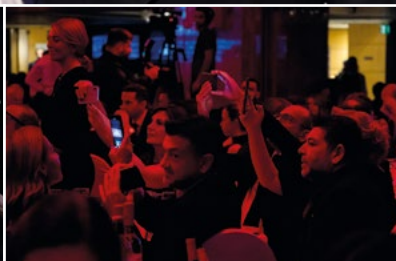


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Jiping Chen (above centre) general manager of China Classification Society in Athens proposes CCS's toast to the health of Greek shipping; Youth & Tradition (right): 15 year-old Despina Iliopoulou of Seajets presents The Safety Award to the century-old Hellenic Coast Guard; both were among the many moments (below) worth recording.



→ Kassidokostas-Latsis, who as Latsco chief executive has ushered in the company's most active period for many years.

Greek shipping's blend of longevity and traditionality on the one hand, and its promise of a bright future as a new generation takes over was probably best encapsulated when Despina Iliopoulou, by far the youngest of the night's presenters, presented 'The Safety Award' to the Hellenic Coast Guard, which won the Award in its centenary year.

The large audience also reflected the industry's generational mix and some of the night's biggest winners used their moment in the limelight to address tomorrow's custodians of Greek shipping.

Lifetime Achievement Award-winner Gregory Hadjieleftheriadis saw "a lot of young and eager faces", urging them to work hard and "never lose faith or sight of your goals".

George Economou, who was crowned 'Greek Shipping Personality of the Year' for 2019, urged the audience to "push the envelope and pursue your dreams".

He said that he had "made most of my money past the age of 50 so I would encourage everyone who is younger than that, or even older who feels young, to pursue their

dreams. You may be young in age but also in how you feel."

Piraeus, home port for most of the Greek fleet and synonymous with Greece as a maritime centre, could also be counted a winner at the Awards. The municipality took the Piraeus International Centre Award for the first time, recognising the council's blue growth initiatives. Meanwhile, the University of Piraeus' Department of Maritime Studies scooped the prize for Education or Training. Piraeus Bank was declared 'Shipping Financier of the Year'.

In the 'Technical Achievement' category, Piraeus-based SeaBright prevailed, while DeepSea Technologies got the nod for the Lloyd's List Intelligence Big Data Award.

One of the warmest-received winners of the night, as is traditional, was the 'Seafarer of the Year', a title that went to Avin International tanker master Captain Dimitrios Spanoudakis for an operation to pick up a boatload of refugees in the Ionian Sea.

The 'International Personality of the Year' Award was won by Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou who has made a huge impact as head of the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association, Wista.

ClassNK, a longtime supporter of the event,

was once again overall lead sponsor. Guests enjoyed a pre-dinner drinks reception sponsored by Erma First, the Greece-based ballast water treatment specialist and technology company.

China Classification Society offered the traditional toast to the health of the industry. "Despite ongoing challenges in global trading, we can all see the great achievements made by Greek shipowners, seafarers and related organizations, individuals and business executives," said Jiping Chen, CCS's general manager for the Athens office.

"I believe through the efforts of us all, the Greek shipping community will have a bright future," he told the audience.

SAVE THE DATE:

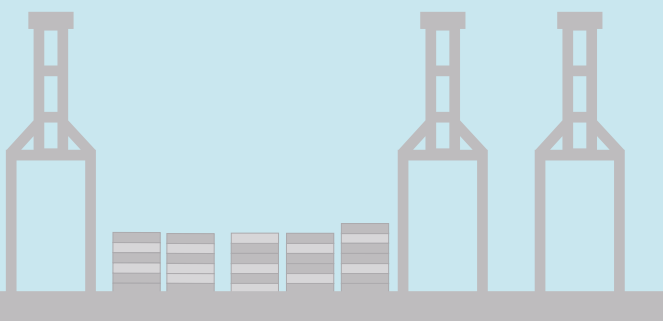
The 2020 Greek Shipping Awards will take place on Friday, December 4, 2020

Congratulations to all Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards 2019 winners



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Hiroaki Sakashita, senior executive vice president of ClassNK, gave a welcome address as overall lead sponsor of the event. Below is an edited version of his speech

‘Together we must find ways to the future of shipping’

Dear Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good evening,

On behalf of ClassNK, and as overall event sponsor of this prestigious Awards evening, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all our clients here tonight and to all of you for your participation in this special event.

Greece is the most important location in ClassNK's global strategy. This is not only because the Greek fleet is the biggest in the world, but also because Greek Shipping companies are essential players in the global shipping arena.

Digitalization and decarbonization will be major challenges for our guests tonight. These two challenges may change shipping business dramatically in coming decades. Shippers, shipping companies, shipbuilders, ship machinery manufacturers and classification

societies have to find ways to the future together adapting technological solutions.

ClassNK is there to support every player in the maritime industry, especially those working with advanced technology. ClassNK will put every effort into supporting key players, aiming to realize new cutting-edge technologies.

For example, in September we published “Guidelines for Wind-Assisted Propulsion Systems for Ships” as the standard to certify emerging technology, in which we have incorporated the experience from an innovative Greek initiative to embody propulsion by wind in the early 2010s.

In this important market, ClassNK will continue providing clients with high-quality third-party certification, swift and reliable technical advice, and practical support to overcome challenges.

I look forward to an even closer relationship between this remarkable maritime community and ClassNK.

Thank you very much and I wish everyone an enjoyable evening.

ClassNK was overall Event Sponsor of the Greek Shipping Awards 2019. Founded in 1899, ClassNK is a leading classification society that has been serving the Greek maritime community for many years. The society strengthened its services dramatically with the opening of its Piraeus office in 1975 and its operations in Greece have steadily expanded to serve all major ports throughout the Aegean archipelago. ClassNK Piraeus now oversees a total of about 1,000 vessels. This achievement is a testament to ClassNK's outstanding service and the trust it shares with Greek shipping clients.



Thank you

We are honoured to receive the **Dry Cargo Company of the Year Award for 2019** at the **Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards**. We extend our gratitude to all our partners, colleagues and friends the world over, who contributed to this distinction that reflects our aim of ensuring efficient and reliable sea transportation solutions around the globe.





Lloyd's List managing editor Richard Meade (right) presents a donation to 'Argo' president Despina Papastelianou and (inset) shipping minister Ioannis Plakiotakis addressed the audience

Shipping minister and Argo charity: A determination to do more

INTRODUCTORY rites at the 2019 Awards included greetings from the country's minister of Shipping and Island Policy, Ioannis Plakiotakis, and the presentation of a charity donation from the organisers.

Mr Plakiotakis was unable to attend the event in person, but addressed the "great occasion" through a video recording.

The Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards have been "a very important shipping appointment since 2004, honouring many and varied achievements across the industry," he said.

"Designed to recognise quality, achievement, entrepreneurship, competitiveness, innovation and filotimo, as they say in Greece, as well as to promote Greece as a preeminent international shipping centre, they are now the most popular maritime award-giving institution in the world, attracting hundreds of leaders from the worldwide and Greek maritime communities."

Congratulating all the nominees, the minister underlined the leading status of the Greek shipping industry. "Ladies and gentlemen, Greek shipping is the first and largest shipping on the planet.

"As 2020 is a milestone year for the Greek maritime community, the ministry of Shipping and Island Policy, through continuous initiatives, aims even more to strengthen our shipping, a shipping that makes us globally proud," he said.

Following the minister's remarks, Lloyd's List's managing editor Richard Meade took to the stage to present a charity donation from the event proceeds. For many years, 'Argo' has been the charity supported at the Greek Shipping Awards.

Argo is now in its fourth decade as a charity that cares for children with physical or learning disabilities born into Greek seafaring families, providing day care facilities, education programmes, and a variety of other activities

and services for those in its care.

Over the years, Lloyd's List has helped to draw attention to Argo's role through its support at the Awards and it has drawn the association closer to the shipping industry.

Accepting the cheque, Argo's president, Despina Papastelianou thanked Lloyd's List and pledged that the association will continue its work.

"From 1985 until today, Argo has always responded to the needs of people with disabilities and their families and is constantly growing. We will continue to do so as long as the needs remain," said Ms Papastelianou.

"Along the way we have found companions and true friends," she added. "We warmly thank you for your support of seafarers' children with disabilities."

More information about 'Argo' can be found at its website: www.argonauts.gr

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John Mytilineos (left), founder of M/Maritime, accepts the company's Dry Cargo Company of the Year Award from Matthew More of Marichem Marigases

DRY CARGO COMPANY OF THE YEAR

THE roll-call of past winners of this award includes some of Greece's longest-established dry cargo shipping companies. But not this time. M/Maritime was established as a dry bulk company as recently as 2016 and it is a measure of the reputation that it has made for itself since then that it had the clear support of the jury.

The company's ambitious growth and heavy ships' delivery schedule in its first three years of operation was made possible by a first-class, highly-experienced team of professionals in every department. The team was focused on ensuring an unblemished operating record in the early years of the company, and providing first-class service to its charterers.

Since taking delivery of its first handysize vessel in December 2016 from Hakodate Shipyard of Namura Shipbuilding in Japan, M/Maritime has grown its fleet to 15 vessels and has transported more than 7.5m t of cargo.

It has concentrated chiefly on the handysize and supramax/ultramax segments that cater

to its clients' main cargoes, and on quality tonnage. Almost all vessels in the fleet are Japanese-built, the one exception being a modern secondhand ultramax built by Sinopacific's Dayang yard.

Most of the vessels were ordered by M/Maritime as newbuildings in several Japanese yards, with no less than five deliveries in 2019 alone. To date the company has contracted handysize and ultramax newbuildings from Hakodate Dockyard, Saiki Heavy Industries, Imabari Shipbuilding, Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding and Shin Kurushima Dockyard.

In 2019, the company also took delivery of two secondhand acquisitions, its first kamsarmax bulkers, both built at Japan Marine United in 2014.

Since its establishment, M/Maritime has not only managed to establish its name as a first-class shipowner and manager; it has also succeeded in developing relationships of trust with Japan and its maritime industry, furthering a long history of shipbuilding and

other marine ties between Greece and Japan.

M/Maritime's newbuilding programme has been the largest of any Greek company in Japan in the last two years, but its contribution to bilateral relations goes beyond that.

Ahead of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, it became the official sponsor of the International Olympic Academy and supported a series of events celebrating the 120th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation between Japan and Greece. It was also a sponsor of Bari-Ship 2019, the international conference held in Imabari.

All M/Maritime's own vessels proudly have names ending in the ".GR" suffix.

The Dry Cargo Company of the Year Award was sponsored by Marichem Marigases.

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Latsco Shipping chief executive George Margaronis (left) and Paris Kassidokostas-Latsis (right) accept Latsco's Tanker Company of the Year Award from Paillette Palaiologou (centre) of sponsor Bureau Veritas

TANKER COMPANY OF THE YEAR

THE Latsis Group, founded by John S. Latsis in 1937, has been in shipping for more than 70 years. Its shipping activities have been re-energised in recent years, culminating in an impressive expansion in 2018-2019 and its recognition with the Tanker Company of the Year Award.

Commercial management of the fleet is conducted from London while technical management is done from its Athens offices.

Latsco entered 2019 with a fleet of 27 vessels in the water including 18 medium-range and long range two product tankers, all but two of which were built at various Hyundai group yards since 2015.

In addition, the fleet included nine liquefied petroleum gas carriers, a sector the company first entered in 2001. The presence in LPG shipping has expanded under the leadership of Paris Kassidokostas-Latsis, the founder's

grandson, with two large and four very large gas carriers delivered since 2015. Another two state-of-the-art VLGCs were on order at Hyundai Heavy Industries for delivery in 2020 and will go on five-year charters to Chevron.

The two main focuses for Latsco have traditionally been ordering new ships to high specifications and maintaining strong relationships with some of the world's largest charterers.

At the end of 2018 the group joined the select club of Greek owners in the liquefied natural gas shipping sector with the order of two 174,000 cu m LNG carriers at HHI and was able to do so with the backing of five-year charters to Trafigura.

To the fleet directly under Latsco Shipping should be added recent affiliated joint ventures in the crude oil tanker and dry bulk sectors through selectively acquiring

secondhand vessels.

The Ivy Shipping fleet of four modern supramax bulkers and the Fos Shipping fleet of four aframax tankers are managed by the Latsco network.

On top of its longstanding reputation for quality, Latsco was hailed by the judging panel for its commitment to greener, energy-saving technologies and the dynamic renewal, expansion and diversification of its fleet.

Just one example of its environmental commitment has been its partnership with Hyundai, Wartsila, MAN Diesel and DNV GL to develop more efficient technology to enable LPG carriers to burn LPG as fuel.

The Tanker Company of the Year Award was sponsored by Bureau Veritas.



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George Theodosis (left), chairman of Levante Ferries, accepting the Passenger Line of the Year Award from Li Hui of sponsor SWS

PASSENGER LINE OF THE YEAR

ACCEPTING the Passenger Line of the Year Award for Levante Ferries, founder and chairman George Theodosis underlined the auspiciousness of the occasion.

The day, that annually celebrates St Nicholas, patron saint of seafarers and ships, also marked the fifth anniversary of Levante's first sailing after the company's launch in 2014.

Although a relative newcomer to the ferry business, Levante has already stamped itself as an ambitious, innovative and quality-minded entrant in the sector.

It also became the first ferry line dedicated to serving the Ionian Sea islands to win this award.

Levante came to international attention shortly after its debut. Its renovated flagship Fior di Levante won a Shippax Award for 2016 for the "integrity and creativity" of the vessel's overall interior and exterior design, following its conversion and refurbishment for its new role.

Levante also quickly proved itself ready to be a pioneer in the sector; being the first to introduce e-ticketing for the public's convenience.

More recently, the judging panel noted with approval the company's readiness to invest and participate in new environmental initiatives.

In December 2018, the Fior di Levante became the first vessel to plug in to a cold ironing facility in the port of Killini, a 'first' for Greece and the wider East Mediterranean region under the Elemed programme co-funded by the EU.

Two years after its launch, Levante acquired a second vessel, the Mar di Levante, formerly named Ionian Star, but in the 12 months prior to the 2019 Awards added no less than another three ferries to its fleet.

It acquired the modernised Andreas Kalvos, a 1985-built vessel of 1,765 that was thoroughly upgraded before being introduced for Levante,

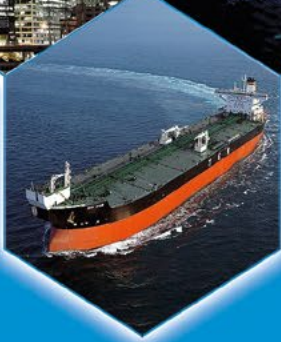
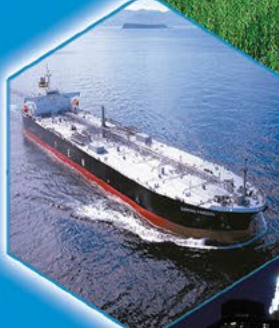
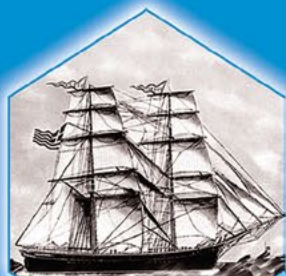
as well as the 3,924 gt Kefalonia, a vessel well-known to Ionian island residents.

Most recently the company acquired the 14,216 gt Kopernik and embarked on a substantial conversion. The vessel, renamed Smyrna, is scheduled to open a new line between Thessaloniki and Izmir in Turkey in 2020, marking Levante's first step in the Aegean Sea.

The judging panel cited the growth of the company's fleet and expansion of its service network as well as its commitment to sustainable operations as ample justification for crowning Levante with the Award.

The Passenger Line of the Year Award was sponsored by SWS.

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Deputy chairman of the Tsakos Group Vassilis Papageorgiou (centre) presents the Award to Yannis Olziersky (left) and Panagiotis Tsilingiris, two of the founding partners of Xclusiv

SHIPBROKER OF THE YEAR

AS SHIPBROKER of the year, the judging panel chose Xclusiv Shipbrokers for its impressive debut in the market.

Xclusiv had been operating only since November 2017, so had barely two years of results to show for its efforts.

However, launched by five already well-established names in Greek shipbroking, the new outfit hit the ground running.

Apostolos Archontakis, Andreas Arfariotis, John N. Cotzias, Yannis Olziersky and Panagiotis Tsilingiris came from diverse firms but shared common values, the same professional ethos and a similar vision.

They started working from a café in a northern Athens suburb before finding permanent premises, but got off to a flying start when Mr Olziersky signed a memorandum of agreement for a medium-range tanker on the firm's first day.

In less than 24 months the firm brokered sales and purchase deals for 41 vessels with a contractual value of about \$575m, ranging from several VLCC sales to handy bulkers and medium-sized gas carriers.

Of these, 29, worth about \$420m, came in the first three quarters of 2019.

The judging panel noted that the firm had transacted with buyers and sellers in 16 different countries, underlining the partners' contacts and Xclusiv's competitive international presence.

The firm also demonstrated the ability to handle more complex transactions such as en bloc sale-and-leasebacks and acquisitions with employment attached.

Since inception, Xclusiv has doubled the size of its team to 10 people but it remains true to its original vision to provide "tailor-made, value-added brokerage services blended with

a commercial, technical and financial twist."

In addition to Xclusiv's assets division, which is the cornerstone of its business, it also offers a comprehensive service for newbuilding projects, including benchmarking and optimisation of designs and sourcing of scarce newbuilding slots. The firm also provides solutions for retrofitting of vessels to meet new requirements, assistance in finding finance, and trading services.

The team has a track record in research and development and can act as a consultancy to undertake R&D for clients. The founders also led valuations departments at previous firms and Xclusiv offers "solid experience" in this area.

The Shipbroker of the Year Award was sponsored by the Tsakos Group.



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Andreas Chrysostomou of sponsor Tototheo Maritime presenting the Shipping Financier of the Year Award to Eleni Vrettou (left), head of corporate and investment banking of Piraeus Bank

SHIPPING FINANCIER OF THE YEAR

PIRAEUS Bank can trace its origins to 1916 when it was established by a group of shipowners, so it can claim to have shipping in its DNA.

In the modern era, it has been active in the industry since the end of the 1990s when the bank acquired the Greek shipping portfolios of the banks Natwest and Credit Lyonnais.

Soon afterwards it added the Bank of Macedonia-Thrace portfolio and strengthened its shipping division by hiring experienced ship lending executives.

Today, it has the largest shipping loan portfolio of any Greek bank and is one of top five lenders to Greek shipowners overall.

Like all the Greek banks, in recent years it has faced a challenging environment that has included capital controls and increasing regulatory requirements. But its commitment to the industry has not wavered and the bank has adapted its lending strategy for

shipping, by striving to optimise its exposure and strengthening the portfolio's quality while extending its relationships with both existing and new clients.

Judges viewed as positives the bank's clear recognition of shipping's importance to the Greek economy and its customer-centric approach aiming at building sustainable relationships with shipowners at a time when fewer banks have shared this stance towards the industry.

Underlining this, Piraeus Bank concluded about \$500m in new ship finance loans in 2019, bringing its portfolio to about \$2.5bn.

Equally noteworthy was that the new funding was shared among numerous owners, the majority of them medium-sized and smaller companies including new as well as existing clients of the bank.

Not counted in the bank's shipping portfolio is a considerable amount of lending Piraeus

Bank does for regional coastal ferry companies through its national network.

"This is an extremely important award, not just for Piraeus Bank but for the whole Greek banking system," said Eleni Vrettou, the bank's executive general manager, head of corporate and investment banking, accepting the Award.

"It shows that in a year where several lenders are retreating the Greek banks have addressed the issues of the past and challenges that are ahead of us and remain strongly committed to the sector, supporting your future investment plans."

The Shipping Financier of the Year Award was sponsored by Tototheo Maritime.



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SeaBright managing director Panos Mallios (right) and export director Elias Mallios (left) receive the Award from Ioannis Chiotopoulos (centre), regional manager for South East Europe, the Middle East and Africa for DNV GL Maritime

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SEABRIGHT is a well-established, internationally-recognised designer and manufacturer of high-quality marine and industrial lighting fixtures and solutions that was warmly adopted by the judging panel as winner of the Technical Achievement Award.

The company was established in 1982 by Anastassios Mallios with support from his wife and is today managed by a second generation of the family that has furthered its success in an international market that increasingly needs competitive, reliable products that enhance vessel efficiency and reduce the ship's environmental footprint.

Until the last decade, the company's focus was chiefly the domestic market in Greece, but the national financial crisis and hard times for the country's shipyard sector forced SeaBright to become more outward-looking.

Today, all lighting fixtures are manufactured in

Greece and the company last year moved to new Piraeus premises of 3,500m² allowing it to expand its production.

Nowadays a full 80% of its fixtures are for export. SeaBright serves not only the needs of Greek shipowners but has been chosen by leading international companies. A mark of its success is that it has been chosen to equip ships by major cruise lines such as Royal Caribbean and MSC Cruises.

In addition to its Piraeus headquarters, the company operates sales offices in Gdansk and Miami while its international network of exclusive distributors covers more than 10 countries.

Driven by sustainable values, SeaBright has drawn on its expertise to create a custom-made LED lighting upgrade solution that has been adopted by numerous owners. Upgrades with the LED kits offers reductions in power

consumption of more than 65%.

Installation on one capesize bulk carrier recently was found to save 80 t of fuel per annum.

Accepting the Award, managing director Panos Mallios thanked "the SeaBright family that is making our dream become reality."

Among clients, he singled out the Tsakos Group for a special mention as being the first to award a major series of newbuildings to the firm, which at the time was the largest LED lighting project in the market.

The Technical Achievement Award was sponsored by DNV GL.



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Vice Admiral Theodoros Kiliaris (right), Chief of the Hellenic Coast Guard, receives The Safety Award from Despina Iliopoulou, daughter of Marios Iliopoulos of Seajets, the Award's sponsor. The HCG celebrated its centenary in 2019

THE SAFETY AWARD

THE Safety Award, together with the separate Sustainability Award, succeeds the long-running combined award for safety or environmental protection that was offered at the Greek Shipping Awards annually for its first 15 years.

To popular acclaim, it was won by the Hellenic Coast Guard, established in 1919, in its centenary year.

This completed a hat-trick of wins for the HCG, which was a two-time winner of the predecessor Award, and it provided further recognition of the extraordinary job that the coast guard does.

Greece's extensive coastline demands a substantial, well-trained coast guard and, with about 8,000 personnel deployed across Greece, the HCG is larger than in most neighbouring countries. Indeed, it is larger than some national navies.

The force has a major role in Greece's national security and crime prevention as well

as providing much of the expertise, and the operational capability, of the country's maritime administration. The HCG's network has historically provided support for Greek merchant shipping and its crews and this has been reciprocated with industry funding for new equipment and maintenance, such as the Union of Greek Shipowners' recent donation of 10 newly –built patrol boats to the coast guard.

Its role in marine safety is multi-faceted, ranging from the country's training academies and the work of the merchant ship inspectorate to inspection of port and other maritime installations regarding safety.

It operates the Joint Rescue Coordinating Centre (JRCC) in Piraeus and serves all Greek port authorities, all of which function as part of the search-and-rescue network.

In addition to its work in safety, crime prevention and securing Greece's borders, the Hellenic Coast Guard in recent years has had

to respond to the specific challenge of migrants risking the dangerous passage across the Mediterranean to Greece.

According to the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR, a total of nearly 60,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by sea during 2019, more than two-thirds of them from Afghanistan and Syria, a sharp increase from the previous two years.

Arrivals in Greece far exceed those in Italy, Malta, Cyprus and Spain all put together; yet the number of deaths of refugees was once again lower than elsewhere.

One of the reasons for that was the daily, heroic, humanitarian efforts of the Hellenic Coast Guard. As one of the nominations put it: "They are saving lives at sea every day."

The Safety Award was sponsored by Seajets.

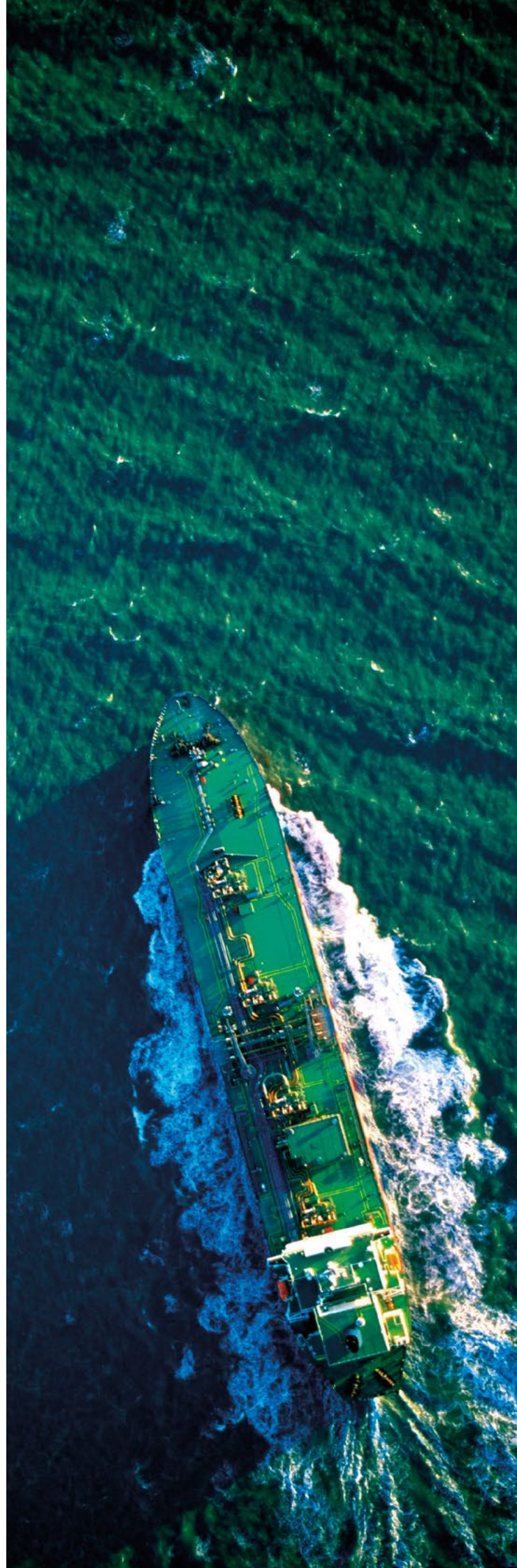
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Theodosios Stamatellos (right) of sponsor Lloyd's Register presents The Sustainability Award to Alexander Prokopakis of probunkers

THE SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

THE inaugural Sustainability Award went to probunkers.

The new Award was aimed at Greek companies that have integrated social and environmental sustainability principles into their operating culture and can demonstrate that transparency and ethics are part of their core values.

Criteria could include, among other things, achievements in decarbonisation, enhanced energy management, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, waste management, health and safety management, and social responsibility initiatives.

Athens-based probunkers was publicly launched in 2018 as one of the earliest movers to support sustainable shipping through establishing a global LNG bunkering infrastructure.

According to probunkers, LNG is "the only viable and commercially available green marine fuel today," and creating the global bunkering infrastructure is key to enabling the industry's transition to LNG as a fuel.

In 2019 the company received about 40 responses from designers and shipyards resulting from its tender for proposals for its projected fleet of seven LNG bunkering vessels. The plan calls for these to be stationed in seven strategically located ports around the world - Houston, Gibraltar, a northern European port in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp range, Fujairah, Hong Kong, Singapore and Busan.

As a result of this, it has since gone on to line up an initial order for two 7,600 cu m LNG bunkering vessels at Hyundai Mipo Dockyard in South Korea.

Chief Executive Alexander Prokopakis founded the company with backing from Océanking Technical & Trading but probunkers aims to open the holding company, combining ownership of the fleet together with its commercial activities, to outside investors.

Beyond its headline project for LNG fuel, sustainable principles are enshrined in probunkers' goals, objectives and company culture. Its approach from the beginning has been built around its customers, employers,

shareholders and society at large. Among its main goals are to "respect and protect the environment [and] be a good and responsible corporate citizen."

It recently endorsed the Sustainable Ocean Principles of the UN Global Compact.

It has also joined the 'Getting to Zero Coalition' and will contribute to the Coalition's think-tank through market developments in LNG and bio/synthetic LNG as fuel.

Accepting the Award for probunkers, Mr Prokopakis said: "This Award showcases the importance of the task at hand and the recognition of the industry towards the bold steps required in achieving a sustainable future for shipping. Overcoming the chicken-and-egg dilemma of LNG as a fuel requires great devotion and a strong belief in what we are doing."

The Sustainability Award was sponsored by Lloyd's Register.

Greek Shipping's 'Dinner of 2019'



Co-host Andriana Paraskevopoulou hits the buzzer (in style!) to determine the winner of a complimentary bottle of champagne



Something is ticking in the background but sang froid rules at the Lloyd's Register table



The event was hosted by Greek national TV broadcaster Andriana Paraskevopoulou and Nigel Lowry of Lloyd's List – introduced on-screen as band Percussion4One plays the 'Mission Impossible' theme, kicking off a night of suspense and fun



Once again, Awards night saw a packed ballroom at the Athenaeum InterContinental with well over 1,100 guests including numerous shipping celebrities



Lloyd's List's managing editor Richard Meade shares a joke with shipowner Vasilis Bacolitsas, chairman of Intertanko's Hellenic Mediterranean Panel and a member of the 2019 judging panel



Left to right: Immediate past president of BIMCO Anastasios Papagiannopoulos, Vice Admiral Theodoros Kiliaris, chief of the Hellenic Coast Guard, and president of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping George D. Pateras



Shipowners Adam Polemis of New Shipping with Fotini Karamanlis of Hellenic Carriers



'Captain, My Captain': Aikaterini Spanoudaki with husband Capt Dimitrios Spanoudakis



Three generations of the Latsis family celebrate the award to Latsco Shipping as 'Tanker Company of the Year'



Members of ClassNK's party in the Gallery of Winners



As sponsor of the welcome cocktail party, Erma First played a key role in the success of the 2019 Greek Shipping Awards
Left: A night to cap it all – the University of Piraeus celebrates



From left: Stacia Polemis with husband Spyros Polemis, a former president of the International Chamber of Shipping, and Jenny Vokos with husband Themis Vokos, founder and honorary chairman of Posidonia Exhibitions



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Stelios Mavrelas of sponsor Capital Ship Management (left) presents the International Personality of the Year Award to Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou

INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

THE International Maritime Organization made empowering women the theme of World Maritime Day for 2019 and it could not be more appropriate that Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou in the same year became the first woman to win the International Personality of the Year Award.

Few in the maritime world have been more persistent and more energetic in promoting greater diversity within the industry.

In October 2019 Ms Panayiotou Theodosiou was re-elected president of the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association International for another two years. Headline achievements of her first term of office included spearheading Wista's growth from 39 national chapters to 50, including new affiliated associations in South Africa, Chile, Portugal, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, Uruguay, Japan, Colombia, Bangladesh and Mexico.

Under her leadership, Wista International earned IMO consultative status, enabling the

body to formally contribute to the discussion of gender equality and promoting women in the industry, a "critical component" for increasing capacity in the industry, according to Ms Panayiotou Theodosiou.

It was a year of numerous internal as well as external initiatives for Wista – from collaborating with the IMO to launch a survey on women in the maritime sector to launching a helpful membership directory app for Wista members.

As well as her commitment to advancing women's opportunities and their contribution to shipping, Ms Panayiotou Theodosiou also brings a wealth of expertise on the technology side of shipping and appreciation of how the industry is changing.

As her nomination stated, "She has acknowledged and understood the importance of embracing change as a factor in success. Whether we talk about technological advancement business model variations,

skillset diversification or diversity in the workplace, Despina has played a key role in setting the spotlight on these vital issues, as drivers towards shaping a sustainable shipping industry."

She combines the role of Wista International president with being co-chief executive of Tototheo Maritime, a maritime technology and services firm she runs with her husband, Socratis. Its main offices are in Cyprus and Greece, which she calls "my second Home and a country that is deeply in my heart."

In addition Ms Panayiotou Theodosiou is a board member of the Cyprus Chamber of Shipping and sits on boards and committees for several other organisations.

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



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John Laderos (right), chief executive of SRH Marine SAI, presents the trophy to deputy mayor Andriana Zarakeli and Ilias Salpeas, representing the Municipality of Piraeus

PIRAEUS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AWARD

IT MAY appear natural that the Municipality of Piraeus won the Piraeus International Centre Award – even overdue, given the fact that the category has been offered annually since 2005.

In fact the Award is one of the most competitive of all the categories at the Greek Shipping awards, usually attracting more than 20 strong contenders drawn from most aspects of the maritime world.

Piraeus is recognised as the home port and historic hub of modern Greek shipping. Although many shipping firms nowadays may have addresses in other parts of Athens, Piraeus itself is an expanding port, a continuing centre for offices and a metaphor for Greece's maritime cluster generally.

The Award can recognise outstanding services to Greek shipping entities or for a wider contribution to Greece as a maritime centre.

For 2019, the panel chose the municipality for its emphasis on developing the 'blue' economy and making it a central part of its efforts to revitalise Piraeus economically.

Its Strategic Plan for Blue Development 2018-2024 was the first such plan implemented by any municipality in Greece.

In particular, the judges lauded its Blue Growth Initiative, a competition for start-ups to promote maritime-related business ideas, and Blue Lab, the first centre in Greece to support business innovation and use of new technology exclusively for the Blue Economy.

The municipality also participates in European projects BlueAct and Techrevolution, for cities sharing good practices, and the Blues Project with the University of Piraeus for vocational education and training.

The municipality's support for entrepreneurship and small business has already won a prize at the European Enterprise Promotion Awards.

Accepting the Award, deputy mayor for communication and media Andriana Zarakeli, representing Piraeus mayor Ioannis Moralis on stage together with advisor Ilias Salpeas, underlined the importance of the recognition.

"It is a great honour [that] reflects our city's efforts to promote blue growth around the globe and will further stimulate us to continue serving our commitment to enhance the blue economy in our city," she told the audience.

The Piraeus International Centre Award was sponsored by SRH Marine SAI



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SAFEBULKERS



Dr Loukas Barmparis (left), president of sponsor Safe Bulkers, presents the Seafarer of the Year Award to Capt Dimitrios Spanoudakis

SEAFARER OF THE YEAR

SEAFARER of the Year has always been one of the most warmly appreciated and applauded of the Greek Shipping Awards since it was introduced in 2005.

Captain Dimitrios Spanoudakis, a master who has spent his entire career with tanker operator Avin International, became the 18th seaman to win the Award over the last 15 years.

Traditionally, the Award goes to a vessel's master selected by the panel of judges, based on a shortlist of candidates proposed by the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation. Generally the list focuses on masters whose vessels perform rescue services in the 12 months preceding the nominations deadline.

The actions that have earned the Seafarer of the Year accolade over the years have ranged from picking up stranded sailors in the

Atlantic and aiding refugees in Greek waters, to braving pirate-infested seas in the Middle East to rescue shipwrecked seafarers and steering a blazing ferry back to port, saving hundreds of passengers.

Born in Crete, Capt Spanoudakis started his seafaring career in 1991 and has been with Avin International ever since he was an apprentice, serving on several of the company's tankers. He became a Master in 2013.

In July this year, Capt Spanoudakis was in command of the medium-range chemical/oil tanker Kriti Jade on a voyage carrying fuel oil from Russia to Italy when he was contacted by the Piraeus Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (Piraeus JRCC).

The JRCC had received a rescue call made by a small boat crammed with refugees in the

Ionian Sea.

They had been abandoned overnight by a people trafficker and left at sea with no navigational knowledge or provisions.

The Kriti Jade proceeded to their position and, when day broke and the sea conditions had improved, Capt Spanoudakis and his crew were able to bring on board the tanker 57 refugees of various nationalities, including seven children.

They were fed and cared for and some were able to call relatives and reassure them by satphone from the tanker. All were safely disembarked in the Greek port of Kalamata.

The Seafarer of the Year Award was sponsored by Safe Bulkers, Inc.

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Engineer Rafael Cigarruista (right) of the Panama Maritime Authority presents the Award for Achievement in Education or Training to Angelos Pantouvakis chairman of the Department of Maritime Studies, University of Piraeus

ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING

WINNING the 2019 Award for Achievement in Education or Training capped a 30th anniversary year for the University of Piraeus' Department of Maritime Studies (DMS).

It was established in 1989 to bridge an academic gap in the Greek maritime cluster and ever since its early years it has provided high-quality education, helping graduates become capable members of the shipping industry in Greece as well as in other countries.

The DMS has become a prime conduit for maritime talent through its undergraduate, post-graduate and recently e-learning programmes that offer up-to-the-moment theoretical and applied expertise in seaborne transportation, logistics and supply chain management.

It has strong ties with the Greek maritime cluster but also the international maritime community and in addition to serving an important national role is ambitious of making a global impact.

To date the DMS has served about 6,000 graduate students and approaching 1,500 post-graduate students. Of these the majority are Greek but about 10% are international, drawn from elsewhere in Europe as well as the Americas and Asia.

About 60% of alumni find employment in the shipping industry within about a year following graduation, with many of these finding jobs within the first few months.

Furthermore, the Department has been a pioneer in maritime research addressing the environmental, strategic and operational challenges of the industry and it has regularly been ranked among the top institutions worldwide for research based on research output in leading journals.

Specialised research laboratories focus on a number of specific areas including maritime economics, management, maritime accident prevention, oceanography and marine geochemistry, port economics and management, and quantitative analysis in

shipping.

The DMS has also been successful in forging global collaborations at academic and industry level, whether for research, student exchange, internship or careers.

An example in 2019 was the start of a new cooperation with Dalian Maritime University in China for the MSc in Shipping Management programme, including provisions for student and faculty exchanges, joint provision of consultancy services, and co-funding of research initiatives.

Accepting the Award, the Department's chairman, Angelos Pantouvakis, said that the goal of the DMS was to achieve a leadership position in its fields equivalent to "the global role that Greek shipping currently plays."

The Award for Achievement in Education or Training was sponsored by Panama Maritime Authority.

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Capt. Vladimir Docekal (right) of sponsor RightShip presenting the Ship of the Year Award to Marios Iliopoulos of SeaJets for 'WorldChampion Jet' (inset)

SHIP OF THE YEAR

UNIQUENESS cannot always be the criterion for judging the 'Ship of the Year' but it certainly applies to the 2019 winner, WorldChampion Jet.

The vessel captured the imagination of a majority of the judges as a "one-off", but also as a vessel that has managed to bring destinations in the Aegean closer to Athens by virtue of its exceptional speed.

The WorldChampion Jet was built by Australian yard Austal Ships in 2000 as the fastest catamaran in the world. Originally named Villum Clausen, it was tailor-designed for service in Danish waters to comply with some of the toughest safety and environmental rules in the world.

It duly broke the world record for the longest distance travelled by a commercial passenger vessel in 24 hours on its maiden

voyage from Australia to Denmark. The record it set earned the vessel a place in the Guinness Book of Records and lasted for three years.

The vessel served a regular Denmark-Sweden service until 2018 when it was acquired by SeaJets which put it through a thorough upgrade and interior face-lift before introducing it to the company's Aegean services in April 2019.

The 88-meter long passenger ship is powered by two powerful General Electric LM 2500 gas turbines and can travel at a top speed of nearly 50 knots.

Celebrating speed and its current owner's racing hobby, the vessel's two-storey central atrium displays a genuine Formula 1 car, a Minardi driven by leading driver Jos Verstappen in the 2003-4 F-1 season.

The WorldChampion Jet was designed to minimise emissions and noise. The vessel's semi-Swath hull design achieved a high degree of stability and the ability to maintain a strict time schedule even in heavy weather conditions.

The WorldChampion Jet can carry about 1,275 passengers, plus 220 private cars or a combination of about 15 trucks and private cars. It has broken all records for voyages between Piraeus and the Cycladic islands, for example covering the Piraeus-Syros route in less than two hours.

The Ship of the Year Award was sponsored by RightShip.



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Vassilios Kroustallis of sponsor ABS (right) presenting the Award to DeepSea Technologies co-founder and chief executive Roberto Coustas (centre) and head of development Stathis Plitsos

LLOYD'S LIST INTELLIGENCE BIG DATA AWARD

THIS Award, which is judged by experts from Lloyd's List Intelligence rather than by the regular judging panel, is intended for a Greek company that has exemplified the benefits of digitalisation for innovation or efficiency.

Non-Greek companies can also be considered if the beneficiary of the project is a Greek shipping business or an operation of the wider Greek maritime sector.

Whatever the type of company, entrants are encouraged to demonstrate measurable results wherever possible.

In 2019, DeepSea Technologies won for 'Cassandra', an artificially intelligent vessel monitoring assistant that aims to ensure efficient round-the-clock management and safety of vessels and crew.

The system is based on a robust real-time data collection structure linked to key vessel components that transfers the data from the vessel. Cassandra learns continuously from the data gathered and ensures the

shipmanagement company is notified promptly of any issues.

Among its functions are monitoring key machinery and optimising vessel energy efficiency, offering intelligent answers to questions such as fuel consumption tracking, hull drag optimisation, machinery troubleshooting and scrubber monitoring.

The Panel of LLI Experts said that it was impressed by DeepSea Technologies' command of a vast and varied set of dynamic data points. And the panel particularly liked Cassandra's use of machine-learning and artificial intelligence to continually improve the product, therefore impacting efficiency and performance on an ongoing basis.

It scored particularly highly with the panel for innovation, delivering measurable benefits in performance and enhancing industry practices.

DeepSea Technologies convinced the panel with user cases such as detecting

overconsumption of fuel oil due to marine growth on a client's idle vessel, alerting companies when fuel changeovers are not effected prior to entering an ECA zone, and instances where patterns in the data led to identification of problems concerning specific crew members.

The company acknowledges its collaboration with major containership owner Danaos Corporation as a key aspect of its development. Danaos itself, together with Danaos Management Consultants, won the inaugural Big Data Award in 2015 for Waves, an earlier fleet performance system applying big data analytics.

The Lloyd's List Intelligence Big Data Award was sponsored by ABS.



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Nikolas Martinos (left) accepts the Next Generation Shipping Award, presented by Theofilos Xenakoudis, director, worldwide business operations for sponsor IRI/The Marshall Islands Registry

NEXT GENERATION SHIPPING AWARD

SINCE its debut in shipping nearly half a century ago, the Martinos family has had a culture of encouraging the younger generation to step up at the earliest possible stage.

Nikolas Martinos has been chief executive of Thenamaris, the family's original mother company, since 2014 after a year of serving as co-chief executive with brother Ioannis who that year left to set up his own independent company, Signal Maritime.

Thenamaris, launched in 1972, has long striven to be a model shipping company. But Mr Martinos is widely seen as taking it to a new level, having driven the company forward in respects such as sustainability, health and safety, social responsibility and energy management.

Quietly, since he took charge the Thenamaris fleet has dramatically increased in size from just over 60 ships to more than 100 vessels, including newbuildings. Mr Martinos has

overseen the commencement of operations in the liquefied natural gas carrier sector as well as leading the company into liquefied petroleum gas carriers.

At Awards time, the fleet on the water comprised 64 tankers 19 bulk carriers, three containerships, three LNG carriers and four LPG carriers. Recent fleet renewal and expansion has seen delivery in 2019 of two very large crude carriers and a kamsarmax bulk carrier, on top of two suezmaxes and one aframax in 2018.

Newbuildings on order included three aframax tankers fitted with SOX scrubbers for delivery in 2020, two additional LNG carriers for delivery in 2020-2, and four fully refrigerated LPG carriers of 38,000 cu m for 2021.

Key accomplishments in the eyes of the panel have included expanding the company without jeopardising safety of operations nor weakening Thenamaris' name for quality.

Likewise, he has been praised for leading Thenamaris through a prolonged difficult shipping market without compromising the ethos of the company.

In terms of management style, Mr Martinos has striven to institutionalise a traditional shipping company by recruiting top talent, applying world-class procedures and making effective use of new technology and data.

According to Mr Martinos, one of his most important priorities has been "making Thenamaris a great place to work!" Accepting the Next Generation Shipping Award, he paid tribute to his grandparents, who launched Thenamaris, and his parents, as well as the new generation helping him run the company today. "The most important recipe for the success of our company is our people," he said.

The Next Generation Shipping Award was sponsored by IRI/The Marshall Islands Registry.

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Cyprus Shipping Deputy Minister Natasa Pilides (left) presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to Gregory B. Hadjieleftheriadis

LLOYD'S LIST / PROPELLER CLUB LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

THE recipient of the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award, Gregory Hadjieleftheriadis was born in Piraeus, attended St. Paul's French school and during summer vacations sailed on Mediterranean coasters.

He graduated from Hydra's Maritime School and after serving in the Hellenic Navy, he sailed and rose to the rank of Captain. He then attended London's School of Foreign Trade and worked evenings at NJ Goulandris, where he gained experience in shipping operations, law and insurance.

Upon returning to Piraeus in 1969, he joined Eletson, which had been established by his father Vassilis in 1966 with the purchase of a 30-year-old 2,500-ton combination carrier.

In 1986, Eletson ordered one of the first series of double hull tankers prior to the Exxon Valdez spill, followed by further orders from shipyards in South Korea, Japan, the Ukraine and the USA, leading to the company having a fleet comprised of only double hulled product tankers in 1996.

Eletson was among the first Greek shipowners to establish a holding company and in 1993 was the first European shipping company, to successfully tap the US bond market and to subsequently pay it back, in 2001.

Together with his brother and brothers-in-law, Mr Hadjieleftheriadis succeeded in making Eletson, into an example for the Greek tanker industry. Although all of the partners were admired within the industry, he was a driving force behind the company prior to retirement in 2006.

During his 50-year career, he was an uncompromising voice for safety, accountability and seafarer training. He was Helmepe's first vice-president in 1982 and was instrumental in establishing its Australian sibling, Ausmepa.

From 1982 to 1991 he was a member of the Board of the Union of Greek Shipowners, chairing its Maritime Education Committee, and he introduced the "sandwich training courses" to Greece's Maritime Academies. He was chairman of the Hellenic National

Committee of Lloyd's Register from 1993 to 2005 and received the rare distinction of being elected a life member of its General Committee. He also served as a director of the Hellenic Mutual War Risks Association and the UK P&I Club.

In recognition of his achievements, he received the Connecticut Maritime Association's Commodore Award in 1995, the very first Lloyd's List Award for Achievement in Bulk Shipping in 2000, the Propeller Club's Port of Piraeus Personality of the Year Award in 2002 and was appointed an Honorary Member of the Union of Greek Shipowners in 2006.

Accepting his Award, Mr Hadjieleftheriadis recollected his humble beginnings and in addressing the dinner's younger guests, he urged them "to work hard, pay attention to detail and to never lose faith or sight of their goals."

The Lloyd's List/Propeller Club Lifetime Achievement Award was sponsored by Shipping Deputy Ministry, Cyprus.

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George Youroukos (left) accepts the Greek Shipping Newsmaker of the Year Award from Frans Horjus, global marine lubricants director of sponsor ExxonMobil

GREEK SHIPPING NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR

NEWSMAKER of the Year is an award category that is decided directly every year by senior editorial staff at Lloyd's List, rather than by the judging panel.

George Youroukos emerged as the favoured candidate partly on the strength of the end-2018 merger between Poseidon Containers Holdings, which he led since inception in 2014, and New York Stock Exchange-listed Global Ship Lease, creating a modern fleet of 38 mid-sized and smaller container vessels.

The combination saw Poseidon's shareholders acquire just under 70% of the combined company and Mr Youroukos become GSL's executive chairman.

For Mr Youroukos, it was success at a second attempt to achieve a major stock exchange presence for his containership business. He formed Poseidon as a vehicle in 2010 and, with backing from investors Kelso & Co. and Maas Capital, had eyed an NYSE listing in 2015, only to opt to withdraw as the market was buffeted

In the wake of the merger, Mr Youroukos

continued to be highly active and was instrumental in the astute purchases of another seven container vessels for GSL before the end of 2019.

This expanded the US-listed company's fleet to 45 boxships and in the 12 months to October 2019 the company's momentum also included inking of 27 new charters adding 68 years of employment cover, equating to \$335m of additional contracted earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation.

Also noteworthy was GSL's successful capital raise in October 2019 for \$55m in proceeds, followed the next month by a public offering of \$27.5m in senior notes, issued with the intention of repaying a portion of previous, more expensive debt paper.

The equity offering, in particular, was the first of GSL's common stock for a long while and it stood out in a year of meagre fund raising on Wall Street for the shipping industry.

Outside of GSL, Mr Youroukos' Technomar Shipping company runs a fleet of close to 40 vessels. It includes containerships but almost

two-thirds comprises dry bulk carriers.

Mr Youroukos established Technomar in 1994 after being diverted into the maritime world "by luck", he has said.

After managing tweendeckers, it was among the first companies in Greece to move into containerships in a big way, and soon established strong relationships with major carriers such as Evergreen, Maersk Line and MSC.

Before diversifying into bulkers, Technomar had established itself as the third-largest container shipping specialist among Greek owners.

By a neat coincidence, Mr Youroukos' award came in the company's 25th anniversary year.

The Greek Shipping Newsmaker of the Year Award was sponsored by ExxonMobil.



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George Economou (left) receives the Greek Shipping Personality of the Year Award from Christina Margelou, head of shipping of sponsor Eurobank

GREEK SHIPPING PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

GEORGE Economou has been a leading player in the Greek shipping community for the last three decades and his prominence in deal-making and news headlines had twice before won him the title of Greek Shipping Newsmaker of the Year.

Another hyper-active 12 months in 2018-2019 convinced the judging panel to award the 'Personality of the Year' accolade to one of Greek shipping's most ambitious and accomplished entrepreneurs.

The year saw him take his signature DryShips company private, de-listing it from Nasdaq after 14 rollercoaster years of public trading. Entering 2019 with 83% of the company, he bought out remaining investors for about \$75m and folded DryShips' significant fleet into what was already a large private shipping empire.

Mr Economou's group now has complete control over a fleet of about 130 ships, including 50 tankers, 57 bulkers, six offshore

support vessels, one containership and the TMS Cardiff Gas fleet of five liquefied natural gas carriers in the water.

The group's major expansion has been in the LNG sector where TMS increased its order book to 11 LNG carriers on order at Samsung Heavy Industries and Hyundai Heavy Industries. The LNG shipping company, led by son Christos Economou, has fully-funded all the vessels and sealed long-term charters for all newbuildings with Shell, Cheniere and Total.

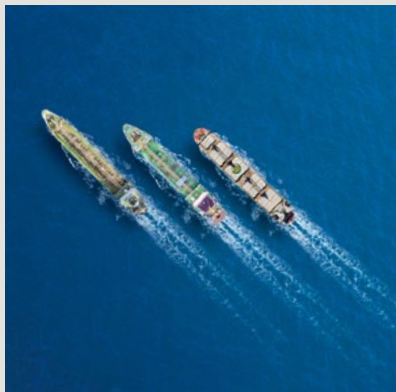
Just prior to the buyout of the remainder of DryShips, the company had acquired the remaining half of the Heidmar tanker pools business that Mr Economou has been involved in for the last decade. This, too, is now wholly controlled by the group and is in the process of being reinvigorated.

Recognised as an early mover in many of his activities, Mr Economou had acted faster than most peers after the collapse of the oil and

gas exploration market to address the dire implications at his offshore drilling company Ocean Rig. It was the first in the sector to restructure and, after emerging in much fitter shape, a merger was concluded with market leader Transocean at the end of 2018, leaving Mr Economou with a 2% stake.

"There are going to be times [in the shipping business] when you feel disappointed, but you should not and you should push the envelope and try and pursue your dreams," said Mr Economou, accepting the Award. "If you feel knocked down by whatever circumstances then remember the song of Gloria Gaynor – 'I will survive'", he told the audience.

The Greek Shipping Personality of the Year Award was sponsored by Eurobank.



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What they said...

HOST Andriana Paraskevopoulou:

"Up to this point our mission has been undercover – but any moment now we will begin to discover the identities of tonight's winner – this year's 'Best of the Best' of Greek shipping in the 18 Award categories."



HOST Nigel Lowry:

"Whether it be increasing digitalisation, automation, ever-more ambitious environmental targets, trade wars or the physical threat of piracy and armed robbery in certain regions, it must sometimes seem for a shipowner like Mission Impossible today."



SPONSOR Natasa Pilides, Shipping Deputy Ministry, Republic of Cyprus:

"On behalf of Cyprus shipping I feel so honoured and proud to be supporting this event which recognises and celebrates one of the world's greatest industries and even more so the Greek shipping industry which is a pillar of international shipping."



SPONSOR Dr Loukas Barmparis, Safe Bulkers:

"In the face of the winner [of 'Seafarer of the Year'] we see the commitment and excellent support and behaviour of our crews."



WINNER Roberto Coustas, DeepSea Technologies:

"The amazing team at DeepSea Technologies is working day and night to provide the best services to our clients. Proof of that is actually that our director of innovation has his finger broken from writing too much code - show us your hand Stathis!"



WINNER George Economou:

"Many times they have asked me what it takes to be successful in shipping. So I have said you need to have a PhD. Be honest now, raise your hand if you have a PhD - I want to see those who have PhDs. Nobody? Very few! I think you don't know what a PhD is... A PhD is when you are Poor and Hungry - and then you get the Drive, which is how you get to be successful!"

WINNER George Margaronis, Latsco Shipping:

"Our quest is simple - to rebuild the company to its former glory, that which was created and subsequently left by our late founder [John S. Latsis]. We are extremely fortunate to enjoy the unwavering support of the family that stands by us full of enthusiasm, commitment and determination."



SPONSOR Theodosios Stamatellos, Lloyd's Register:

"The thought that we should not satisfy our own needs in a way that prevents future generations from satisfying their own must become part of both our personal lives and our professional lives."

WINNER Gregory B. Hadjieleftheriadis:

"For the young people in this room: I urge you to work hard and pay attention to detail. Never lose faith or sight of your goals. Be good citizens of our little blue planet and do not forget to be respectful to the vagaries of the seas and vigilant of shipping's unpredictable markets."



WINNER Capt. Dimitrios Spanoudakis:

"I'm very nervous... It was an effort of the whole crew. Without the crew we would not have managed anything."

WINNER George Youroukos:

"I am blessed with a dream team of professionals to which I owe this Award as well as to my family for standing by me as the road from zero to here has demanded endless hours of work and being away from home. So thank you very much - my team is over there, thank you."





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WINNER Nikolas Martinos:

"The most important recipe for the success of our company is our people - from the past generation and now hopefully from the new generation. So I dedicate the Award to the new generation, which is here with me from Thenamaris. The people in Greece make the difference - and that is why we are No.1 in the world."



WINNER Eleni Vrettou, Piraeus Bank:

"This is an extremely important Award, not just for Piraeus Bank but for the whole Greek banking system, because it shows that in a year where several lenders are retreating the Greek banks have addressed the issues of the past and challenges that are ahead of us and remain strongly committed to the sector."

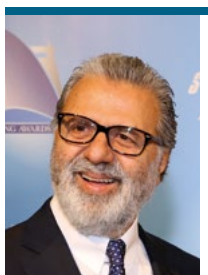
WINNER Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou

"To quote a line from a very famous actress: 'Did I really earn this? Or did I just wear you all down this year?'"



WINNER Vice Admiral Theodoros Kliaris, Hellenic Coast Guard:

"Today's Award is recognition of all the efforts of the personnel of the Coast Guard, and this Award rightfully belongs to all of them."



WINNER John Mytilineos, M/Maritime:

"M/Maritime is very young, it is only three years old. Our fleet is very young, on average it is less than two years old, and our team is very young, on average it is less than 38 years old. It is an ambitious team that believes and tries knowing that benchmark is not good enough for us."



SPONSOR Despina Iliopoulou, Seajets:

"I am 15 years old and I come from a shipping family... I am a young person who was born and grew up dreaming of the future of our shipping, our tourism and of all Greeks. My goal and vision is to continue the family tradition and I hope to reach even higher."





MONACO
LATSCO SHIPPING LIMITED

Gildo Pastor Center,
7 Rue Du Gabian,
MC 98000, Monaco
+377 9777 4670

ATHENS
LATSCO MARINE
MANAGEMENT INC

4 Xenias Street,
Kifissia, 145 62,
Athens, Greece
+30 210 4595100

LONDON
LATSCO LONDON LIMITED

17 Duke of York Street,
London SW1Y 6LB,
United Kingdom
+44 (0)20 7907 5050

 shipping@latsco.com



L-R: Vasilis Bacolitsas, John Kokarakis, Ioannis Theotokas, Irene Daifas, George D. Pateras, Angie Hartmann, Haralambos Fafalios, Charalampos Simantonis, Nigel Lowry, Capt. John Chalas

ILLUSTRIOUS PANEL OF JURORS UNDERPIN AWARDS' CREDIBILITY

THE Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards are adjudicated by a panel of judges broadly representing the Greek shipping industry in its widest sense, choosing from the list of written nominations received from the shipping community at large.

Lloyd's List has been proud of the calibre and credibility of its judging panel each year, composed as it always is of senior industry representatives and experts, drawn largely from among key associations and other institutions active in Greek shipping.

This model has enabled the participation over the years of leading personalities at bodies such as the Union of Greek Shipowners, the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping, the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee, the Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners' Association, the Hellenic Shipbrokers' Association, the Hellenic Marine Environment Association, Wista Hellas, the Propeller Club, the Piraeus Marine Club and numerous other associations and educational institutions.

The complexion of the 10-person panel is refreshed from year to year, ensuring as many bodies as possible are represented and that the chemistry of the individuals tasked with deciding the winners is varied.

With the exception of Lloyd's List's representative on the panel, who has

participated in judging every single year since the Awards' inception, the longest-serving juror is Capt. John Chalas, the record-breaking leader of the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation, who has served annually on the panel since 2005.

In total well over 60 personalities have served as judges of the Greek Shipping Awards over their 16 years to date.

In 2019 the panel once again included a mixture of familiar faces, returning jurors and brand-new participants. Contributing their knowledge and wisdom to the panel for the first time were SNAME Greek Section president Dr John Kokarakis, and former secretary general of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Island Policy Dr Ioannis Theotokas, a well-known shipping historian and now professor of Management of Shipping Companies at the University of Piraeus.

Many of the 16 categories were so closely contested that multiple rounds of votes were required to separate leading candidates.

Categories that are not adjudicated by the panel are Newsmaker of the Year and the Big Data Award. They are respectively decided directly by the Lloyd's List editorial team and Lloyd's List Intelligence.

The system is as open and democratic as can be devised and one that has underpinned the high credibility of the Greek Shipping Awards.

2019 ADJUDICATION PANEL (in alphabetical order):

Vasilis Bacolitsas
Chairman of Intertanko's Hellenic Mediterranean Panel

Capt. John Chalas
General Secretary of the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation

Irene Daifas
President of the Piraeus Marine Club

Haralambos Fafalios
Chairman of the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee

Angie Hartmann
President of WISTA Hellas

Dr John Kokarakis
Chairman of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) Greek Section

Nigel Lowry
Athens Correspondent, Lloyds List

George D. Pateras
President of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping

Charalampos Simantonis
President of the Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners Association

Dr. Ioannis Theotokas
Professor of Management of Shipping Companies at the University of Piraeus, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Island Policy



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