

DYNAMARINe establishes STS training course

Ship-to-ship transfer operations (STS) are considered to be high risk and require a thorough understanding and specialist knowledge.

Athens-based STS consultant DYNAMARINe has joined together with the Maria Tsakos TCM Training Academy to produce a training course in STS operations.

The training course's scope is to provide Masters and deck officers with an extensive understanding in shiphandling principles focused on STS interaction and best operating practices.

A theoretical section incorporates issues associated with the shore and crew personnel's preparedness, due diligence actions, risk management and vetting requirements, according to industry practices and the latest statutory rules and regulations.

The course uses the facilities at the Maria Tsakos TCM Academy, including a full mission shiphandling simulator supplied by Kongsberg.

It integrates both theory and practice when using the simulator. The vital co-operation of shore operators with the crew is thoroughly analysed, whilst focusing on the clearance of the nominated vessels, on the technical assistance from shore to the vessels, necessary compatibility assessments and risk management. In addition, Master and crew duties are clearly defined and discussed.

The course also incorporates the latest MARPOL amendments, IMO Manual on Oil

Pollution, OCIMF's 2013 guidelines and the soon to be launched 2016 STS FAQ, published by DYNAMARINe and Clyde & Co.

Practical training while using the simulator entails extensive realistic scenarios with vessels both at anchor and underway. The effect of weather conditions is examined and emergency situations are also incorporated. The training process allows for four officers to be trained simultaneously in different roles overseen by qualified instructors.

A debriefing discussion will summarise the 'lessons learned' and written exams will be included. Upon completion of the course, a certificate is issued.

The Maria Tsakos TCM Maritime Training Centre was established in 2013 by Tsakos Columbia Shipmanagement - a joint venture between the two companies - in order to cater for the rising training needs of officers, crew and shore staff employees.

The centre is located at the Tsakos group's head office and is equipped with state of the art training facilities.

DYNAMARINe was the founder of onlineSTS.net service, which, since 2011 has provided consultancy to tanker owners/operators in exercising thorough due diligence during vessel nominations for STS operations, risk assessment prior to the

commencement of an STS operation, screening of the service provider and the POAC, STS record-keeping, statistics and KPIs.

STS forum

On 17th March, DYNAMARINe is holding IFSTS 2016 forum, hosted by Clyde & Co in London.

During the forum, the risk profile of STS operations will be debated. Discussions will include the potential risks involved, risk mitigation measures and industry best practice.

The first edition of 'Frequently Asked Questions in STS Operations', a DYNAMARINe and Clyde & Co publication, will also be launched. This guide will address a number of issues related to the safety and diligent organisation of STS operations and provide practical answers.

The forum will be chaired by Mrs Claudene Sharp, UK Head of Marine, DNV GL Noble Denton marine services and formerly a director Vetting & Audits Europe/Asia, Phillips 66 Limited.

The panelists will include - **Dr Phillip Belcher**, marine director INTERTANKO.

Stan Woznicki, Head of Branch - Counter Pollution & Salvage at the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

JC Boon, Sector co-ordinator, Harbour Master Policy Department at Port of Rotterdam.

Stuart Edmonston, Loss Prevention Director, Thomas Miller P&I (Europe). Lloyd's Register of shipping, name to be advised.

Martyn Haines, Master Mariner at Clyde & Co.

Ed Mills-Webb, Partner at Clyde & Co. Service provider, name to be advised.

Alexandros Glykas and **Stylianios Perissakis**, Management, Marine Policy, Operations at DYNAMARINe.

Capt George Asteros, Operations Manager at Maran Tankers Management.

Tanker operator, name to be advised.



DYNAMARINe has teamed up with the Maria Tsakos TCM Academy to offer STS transfer training