

# The Winners



GREEK SHIPPING AWARDS  
2023



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Evangelos Marinakis (right) accepts the trophy from Christos Timagenis of Timagenis Law Firm, the sponsor of the Deal of the Decade Award

## DEAL OF THE DECADE

THE special award for Deal of the Decade (2014-2023) went to shipowner Evangelos M. Marinakis and the Nasdaq-listed company he founded, Capital Product Partners (CPLP), as recognition for “the most successful and impressive single transaction” in Greek shipping over the prior 10-year period.

This was adjudged to be the 2018 deal to spin off Capital Product Partner’s tanker business in a merger that created a separate new company, Diamond S Shipping, with one of the world’s largest publicly-traded mixed crude and product tanker fleets.

It was the second time that the Greek Shipping Awards had offered a ‘Deal of the Decade’ Award. The first, capping the event’s first decade of history, was won in 2013 by Angeliki Frangou for her original 2005 acquisition of Navios.

CPLP’s transformative transaction was not just about expanding the fleet, although it created an impressive merged fleet of 68 crude and

product tankers. It was a strategic business decision and carefully-plotted manoeuvre that significantly enhanced shareholder value and reflected real negotiating acumen and leadership.

The negotiation process involved securing a substantial premium for the CPLP tanker fleet. A consideration of \$23m included in the deal equated to a 10.8% premium to the net asset value of the tankers contributed to the transaction, which also gave CPLP unitholders a 33% share of the new entity and continuing exposure to the tanker markets at greater scale as well as retaining their shareholding in CPLP.

The \$1.65bn tanker mega-merger was a game-changer, catapulting the newly formed entity into a position of market dominance but it has not stopped there. The foresight behind the consolidation was further validated when Diamond S Shipping merged with International Seaways, bolstering its market capitalisation to an impressive \$2.3bn.

For CPLP investors, total returns stemming from the deal have exceeded 110%. Meanwhile, the deal was also catalytic for CPLP, enabling it to reshape its business on the foundation of a significantly younger fleet than the departing tankers. Initially, the partnership concentrated on growing its fleet of modern containerships but it has now refocused itself entirely on gas carriers with a large fleet of newly-built liquefied natural gas carriers acquired from Marinakis’ Capital Gas business.

The shipowner has a track record of innovative and value-creating transactions, including the more recent CPLP deal to acquire the Capital Gas fleet. But the tanker spin-off and merger, consummated in 2019, was the pick of the bunch during the time-frame considered for the Award.

*The Deal of the Decade Award (2014-2023) was sponsored by Timagenis Law Firm*



# GREEK SHIPPING AWARDS 2023



Trophies were presented by Miltos Bantis (second from right), managing director of sponsor LPC, to: (from left) Antonis Kanellakis and Frangiskos Kanellakis of Alpha Gas; George Kourelis of TMS Cardiff Gas; Anthony Papadimitriou, director of GasLog; Jerry Kalogiratos of Capital, Maran Gas principal Maria Angelicoussis; Dynagas founder George Procopiou; and Vassilis Papageorgiou representing Tsakos Energy Navigation

## 20 YEARS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

IN CELEBRATION of the 20th anniversary of the Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards, what could have been more natural than offering a special award to recognise "the greatest individual or collective success or the most transformative achievement in Greek shipping" during the two decades since the awards were launched? .

Although initially determining a winner for this prestigious award of awards seemed like a forbidding task, it soon became apparent that the success of one sector of shipping over this particular time-span outstripped all other candidates for the award, however worthy many of them were.

Back in 2004 when the Awards started there was not a single wholly Greek-owned and operated liquefied natural gas carrier on the water. By October 2023 there were more than 200 in service or on order.

Lloyd's List, which adjudicated the Award directly, decided that the emergence and growth of the LNG shipping sector was the single most historic and impressive achievement in the industry over the last 20 years. Moreover, it is truly a development of which the whole of the Greek shipping industry can be proud.

Accordingly, 20 Years Achievement trophies were presented collectively and individually to a number of the personalities and companies that had contributed to Greece becoming a world leader in LNG shipping, either by being among the first movers or through the scale of their commitment and investment in creating a substantial fleet.

Those awarded on the night included Maran Gas Maritime, the first company to enter the LNG sector as an owner, under the late John Angelicoussis, and today the largest Greek

owner in the sector with 58 vessels in operation or under construction.

Other substantial owners and first-movers recognised included Peter G. Livanos-led GasLog. Livanos, through his family Ceres Shipping company, had been the first Greek owner involved in managing LNG carriers thanks to early experience providing a service for BG vessels.

Other co-winners of the award included Dynagas, Capital Gas, TMS Cardiff Gas, Alpha Gas, and Tsakos Energy Navigation.

Together, the companies represented more than 90% of the Greek-controlled LNG carrier fleet.

*The 20 Years Achievement Award was sponsored by LPC.*



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# Awards & Winners

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**Diana Shipping**
  17. Tanker Company of the Year  
**Tsakos Energy Navigation**
  19. Passenger Line of the Year  
**Celestyal Cruises**
  21. Shipbroker of the Year  
**Cass Technava Maritime**
  23. Shipping Financier of the Year  
**Alpha Bank**
  25. Technical Achievement Award  
**Erma First**
  27. The Safety Award  
**Black Rope**
  29. Award for Achievement in Education or Training  
**Helmepe Academy**
  31. Piraeus International Centre  
**V. Ships Greece**
  33. Lloyd's List Intelligence Big Data Award  
**Procuanship**
  35. International Personality of the Year  
**Emanuele Grimaldi**
  39. Seafarer of the Year  
**Capt. Kyriakos Mouzakis**
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**"Antonis I. Angelicoussis"**
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**Star Bulk**
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**The Greek LNG shipping sector**
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On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Greek Shipping Awards, a special 20 Years Achievement Award recognised the country's LNG shipping sector (see page 55). Right: Erma First sponsored the welcome drinks reception for guests



## Big names and green pioneers predominate as shipping's premier awards event turns 20

SEIZING the moment can often be key to business success. That is certainly so in the shipping industry where cycles and extreme market swings - sometimes in a matter of days - are part of the reality.

The annual Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards has always aimed to keep its finger on the pulse of the industry. But for all the emphasis on the new and being up to the moment, it has also cherished its history. This can be seen most obviously in the Gallery of Winners at each annual event that greets guests with the honour-roll of past award-winners.

The 2023 Greek Shipping Awards coincided with the event's 20th anniversary and the opportunity to celebrate those two decades of history was grabbed with both hands.

Giant LED screens installed as the stage backdrop in the ballroom of the Athenaeum InterContinental hotel paid tribute to each and every award-winner for the previous 19 years, category-by-category. In each case, minutes afterwards the latest winner of that category was unveiled to the capacity audience of 1,100.

Each guest also took home a copy of the newly-published hardback book 20 Years Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards. The lavish 274-page publication is full of photos and reminiscences from each year since the inception of the Awards in 2004.

Marking the 20th anniversary, the evening saw two special awards presented in addition to the traditional 18 categories covering the full spectrum of the country's world-leading shipping community and growing maritime services cluster.

The 20 Years Achievement Award recognised the extraordinary emergence and growth of the Greek liquefied natural gas shipping sector over exactly the same time-span as the Greek Shipping Awards. The other special award of the night saw Evangelos M. Marinakis and Capital Product Partners (CPLP) named as the winners of the Deal of the Decade Award for their 2008 deal to spin off CPLP's tanker fleet in a \$1.65bn merger with Diamond S Shipping.

The glittering event was supported once again by a 'full-house' of international and Greek sponsors, led by a new overall lead sponsor,

Neptune Maritime Leasing, the fast-expanding ship leasing platform.

Other major sponsors included Erma First, the Greece-based ballast water treatment and technology company that has extended into alternative marine power, energy saving devices and carbon capture and storage.

The traditional champagne toast to the Greek shipping industry was proposed by CMB Financial Leasing. Prior to raising her glass, Ling Zhou - managing director and head of the lessor's Shipping Leasing Department - said that Greek owners accounted for one-third of CMB Financial Leasing's portfolio of 240 vessels worth \$9.1bn. "We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Greek shipping community that has helped us achieve this goal," she said.

Over the years, the overriding aim of the Greek Shipping Awards has been to serve the industry and to ensure, as far as is possible while making room for the subjectivity and personal values of its judges, that the awards go to rightful winners, based on merit. One aspect of this has been the intention that as →



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Shipping leasing is one of the strategic business sectors of CMB Financial Leasing, covering Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. We have set up platforms for business in domestic bonded zone (Tianjin), Hong Kong, Singapore and Ireland and carried out business in line with customers' financing requirements. We have maintain long-term good cooperation with world-class shipping companies, independent ship-owners and so on.

## ORIGINAL ASPIRATION

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Clockwise from top left: Ling Zhou of CMB Financial Leasing offers a toast to the success of the Greek shipping industry; the event production was described as 'phantasmagorical' by one local media outlet; the 2023 event set a record for the number of trophies presented on one night - 27; an audience of 1,100 guests attended the dinner event

→ far as possible newer, smaller companies should have an equal opportunity to be recognised as much as larger, longer-established players.

The Awards can look back on a solid record of strong winners, including recognition for a decent number of smaller, lesser-known candidates. But this was a year dominated by big names and long-established reputations.

Shipowner George Procopiou became the first person to be named Greek Shipping Personality of the Year for a second time, having originally won the award a decade earlier. In something of a coincidence, the International Chamber of Shipping chairman Emanuele Grimaldi was unveiled as the first person to win the International Personality of the Year category twice.

Other major individual awards included the Lloyd's List / Propeller Club Lifetime Achievement Award that went to shipowner Nicholas G. Moundreas, chairman of NGM Energy. Newsmaker of the Year was Kriton Lentoudis, of Evalend Shipping, for another

extraordinarily active year in contracting of newbuildings.

The Next Generation Shipping Award, for industry personalities of no more than 40 years of age, was presented to Petros Panagiotidis, the young founder and chief executive of Castor Maritime and Toro Corp, both of which are listed on Nasdaq.

There was also plenty of recognition for companies and organisations seen to be contributing to the industry's green transition.

Leading dry bulk owner and operator Star Bulk Carriers won the coveted Sustainability Award, while marine environmental organisation Helmepea won the Education or Training Award for its Helmepea Academy.

Greece-based Erma First won the Technical Achievement Award, mainly for its newly introduced Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) system that has been hailed as the most compact CCS system yet brought to the market.

Diana Shipping was hailed as Dry Cargo

Company of the Year for its recent performance and initiatives, including ordering of two methanol dual-fuel kamsarmax bulkers.

Tsakos Energy Navigation took the honours as Tanker Company of the Year, in its 30th as a publicly-listed company. In addition to its anniversary year and stellar results, one of the year's highlights for TEN was taking delivery of its first LNG dual-fuel tankers.

Maran Tankers, the Angelicoussis Group's tanker arm, took the Ship of the Year Award for the *Ioannis I. Angelicoussis*, named after Maria Angelicoussis' grandfather and the group's founder. The very large crude carrier, delivered in 2023, was the owner's first LNG dual-fuel VLCC and has delivered reductions of more than 40% in emissions compared with a comparable 10 year-old VLCC, according to internal group data.

In a rare victory for the cruise sector over the country's ferry lines, Celestyal Cruises won the Passenger Line of the Year Award for its admirably Hellenic cruise product, its commitment to the sector that saw it come →



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*Clockwise from top left: the 20th anniversary show was hosted by Andriana Paraskevopoulou and Nigel Lowry; Cyprus shipping deputy minister Marina Hadjimanolis presented the Award for Achievement in Education or Training (see page 29); journalist Anthe Mitrakos conducted red carpet interviews among guests arriving in the Gallery of Winners; sponsorship manager Janet Wood (left) presented an unprecedented gold memento trophy to Lloyd's Register's chief commercial officer, Andy McKeran, recognising LR's two decades of solid sponsorship.*

→ through a pandemic that was ruinous for the cruise sector as a whole, and its introduction of a new vessel in 2023.

Meanwhile VShips Greece was declared the winner of the Piraeus International Centre Award, the first third-party shipmanager to win an accolade at the Greek Shipping Awards.

Relative newcomer to the mooring ropes and wires sector, Black Rope took the Safety Award, partly on the strength of its digital application contributing to the management and safety of mooring connections for shipping companies.

In the key service award categories, Cass Technava Maritime won the Shipbroker of the Year Award and Alpha Bank won the Greek Shipping Financier of the Year Award – both for an unprecedented third time. The Lloyd's List Intelligence Big Data Award was presented to Procuership.

Captain Kyriakos Mouzakis, master of Zante Ferries' ro-ro passenger ferry *Adamantios Korais*, was honoured as Seafarer of the Year for his outstanding conduct in August 2023

when the Alexandroupolis Hospital was evacuated and his vessel took patients to Kavalla, acting as an operational hospital ship.

A donation from the proceeds of the event was presented to Argo, a charity for helping to care for children with special needs within seafaring families. The donation was presented on behalf of the Greek Shipping Awards by legendary Olympic and World windsurf champion Nikos Kaklamanakis.

The Greek Shipping Awards has consistently raised the bar for event production standards in the shipping sector and the organisers have always been mindful that this could not be achieved without the support of the event's sponsors, many of whom have remained exceptionally loyal to the event.

This was reflected in the form of honorary statuettes presented to a trio of sponsors supporting the event for 10 years: Bureau Veritas, Marichem Marigases and the Tsakos Group.

The night also saw Lloyd's Register receive an unprecedented 20 Years of Sponsorship Award for sponsoring the environmental

protection / sustainability award since its inception in 2004.

An opening address was delivered by deputy minister of Shipping & Island Policy, Ioannis Pappas, representing the Greek prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

The event came to an end in a style befitting the 20-year milestone with winners gathered on stage displaying the record 27 trophies presented during the evening.

*The 2023 Greek Shipping Awards event was co-hosted by award-winning ERT broadcaster Andriana Paraskevopoulou together with Lloyd's List correspondent in Greece Nigel Lowry.*



# Neptune

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*Harris Antoniou, founder and chief executive of Neptune Maritime Leasing, gave a welcome address as overall lead sponsor of the event. Below is an edited version of his speech*

## ‘We are ready to fund the future of shipping as leasing becomes mainstream...’

“Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

What better way to celebrate the successes of Greek shipping!

Neptune Maritime Leasing could not miss the opportunity to sponsor this 20th Greek Shipping Awards Gala and honour the individuals and companies that change the fortunes of Greek and international shipping!

Neptune Leasing aspires to be one of those change agents by funding the future of shipping.

At this pivotal moment for the industry, the convergence of technologies from robotics to AI and from new fuels to propulsion is creating a disruptive wave of innovation and growth.

What distinguishes Greek shipping from most others is our ability to find solutions. That’s why it will continue to flourish in the next decades as the shipping ecosystem grows and embraces more verticals.

One of these verticals is leasing.

As the fleet is getting larger and more expensive, and the supply of traditional capital is in long-

term decline, leasing is becoming a prominent mainstream financing solution.

We believe that the shipping industry will follow the footsteps of the airline industry and leasing will soon be funding more than 50% of the global fleet.

We at Neptune Maritime Leasing are happy to join your journey and eager to support the industry with long-term capital and transformative ideas.

Let’s have a wonderful evening!”

Established in 2021, Neptune is a growth-oriented maritime leasing platform with the mission to provide shipowners with access to a flexible financing tool and become the funding platform of choice for growth-minded companies.

The company’s strategy is to buy high quality assets and build a portfolio of long-term contracts through sale-and-leaseback transactions in diverse maritime sectors, with the main focus on oil tankers, dry bulk carriers, gas carriers and containerships.

Neptune is backed by two renowned investors in shipping, Costamare Inc. and the Latsco Family Office. With their support, the portfolio quadrupled in 2023.

Neptune aims to “combine attractive returns with responsible investments, positive environmental, social and governance (ESG) screening and active engagements with lessees, focusing on fuel-efficient ‘eco’ ships.”

It recently published its first comprehensive annual ESG report, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the United Nations Global Compact and the UN Principles of Responsible Investment.

*Neptune Maritime Leasing was overall Event Sponsor of the 2023 Lloyd’s List Greek Shipping Awards*



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Representing Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis at the event, deputy minister of Shipping & Island Policy Ioannis Pappas gave the opening address. An edited version of his speech is below

## 'You have all made Greece a shipping superpower'

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be with you tonight at the largest awards event in Greek shipping, the Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards.

It is a double pleasure and a great honour as this year's event marks the 20th anniversary since its inception in 2004. It is an honour to represent the Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the Greek government.

Global shipping has its attention focused on tonight's event, here at the home of Greek shipping which represents a unique economic phenomenon, with global reach and activity.

The latest Union of Greek Shipowners' annual report is revealing with regard to the size of Greek shipping, and its role at a national, European and international level. Greece remains the world's largest shipping nation, controlling 21% of global capacity, with a fleet of 5,520 ships.

The total capacity of the Greek merchant fleet has increased by 50% in the last 10 years. Its

total contribution to the Greek economy now exceeds 7% of GDP. Greek shipping encompasses 60% of the EU's fleet, securing the continued operation of the supply chain, food sufficiency and energy autonomy.

Shipping is a major source of national capital for Greece, and a matter of our identity and culture from antiquity to today. We all hope that it remains that way in future.

It offers a paradigm of growth, stability, potential and strength. The Greek-owned fleet is a factor that strengthens our foreign policy, and strengthens our position and role internationally.

The experience of the last few years has taught us that the shipping sector plays a vital role in global developments and It is clear that shipping is catalytic and irreplaceable when it comes to the smooth functioning of states and their economies.

Changes we see ahead of us, brought by technology and climate change, are also affecting shipping. But shipping continues its

uninterrupted service to the world while adopting appropriate fuels and technologies in the transition to greener energy. We are proud that Greek shipping is evolving and pioneering, as well as remaining in the top position.

The economic miracle of Greek shipping could not be achieved without the contribution of its people. Shipowners, captains, crews from all over Greece, shipping agents and technocrats of the modern shipping economy, you have all made Greece a shipping superpower.

Our government, since the beginning of its term has proved that it wants to maintain the competitiveness and its global leadership, always in close cooperation with the relevant industry bodies. I wish good luck to your event, and congratulations to all the winners."

**SAVE THE DATE**

The 2024 Greek Shipping Awards will take place on Friday 6 December 2024.

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*Sylvana Strakosa, president of the children's charity 'Argo', receives a donation from the event presented by Nikos Kaklamanakis*

## Olympian Nikos Kaklamanakis reunites with the Awards and 'Argo'

A HIGHLIGHT of the 20th anniversary awards was reuniting with Olympian Nikos Kaklamanakis.

In 2004, the Olympic and world champion Mistral-class windsurfer was the athlete chosen to light the flame for the Athens Olympic Games and he also became the very first recipient of the 'Man of the Sea' Award, the occasional special award by which the Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards from time to time recognises extraordinary individuals and stories out-of-competition.

Still one of Greece's best-loved athletes, he took to the stage to present a donation on behalf of Lloyd's List and the Awards to Argo.

The Greek Shipping Awards has been an annual supporter of Argo, a charity dedicated to children with physical and learning disabilities in the families of seafarers. Children from non-seafaring families can only be offered places in the event of empty capacity.

Argo cares for about 60 individuals of up to about 45 years of age, providing a day care centre, education and a variety of other services and activities.

Kaklamanakis remains strongly identified with the sea. One of the most memorable achievements in his career was sail-boarding across the Aegean, a unique feat of endurance and skill completed in the summer of 1997. This was followed during his country's dire financial and social crisis by a new Aegean crossing in 2011, an inspirational odyssey of 280 nautical miles from the island of Andros to the island of Karpathos.

"My congratulations to the maritime community," he told the audience. "In difficult times, as Aristotle said, you can't control the sea but you can adjust your sails. You have adjusted your sails and succeeded. You have doubly succeeded because you have the strength to share the good fortune with others.

"Congratulations for helping those who need our support, like now. This is an example of how we can change the world for the better," he added.

Kaklamanakis also added his autograph to signed charity copies of the book 20 Years of the Greek Shipping Awards (See pages 63-65) that were auctioned to raise further support for

Argo. The generous bidders who won special copies in aid of the charity included Vassilis Laliotis of J. Laliotis Maritime Group, Marily Frangista of Franco Compania Naviera, Dorothea Ioannou of the American Club, Tsavlis Salvage, Ioannis Zafirakis of Diana Shipping, Konstantinos Lampsias of Delos Navigation, Shingo Ogawa of Mitsubishi Corporation.

Kaklamanakis has often spoken of the life-lessons learned from the ocean and many years of training, competition and preparation to adapt to conditions that can change from minute to minute. Not surprisingly, he has become an in-demand motivational speaker and leader of corporate workshops. Many of his principles, learned from the sea, are vividly relatable to the highly-competitive maritime industries.

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

Be inspired by Nikos Kaklamanakis: [www.mygoldenview.com](http://www.mygoldenview.com)

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# Shipping



*Matthew Ian More, business executive of Marichem Marigases Worldwide Services, presents the Award to Diana Shipping founder and chairman Simos Palios (right)*

## DRY CARGO COMPANY OF THE YEAR

IN THE years following its inception in 2005, Diana Shipping became a watchword for stability and consistency in the sometimes turbulent world of dry bulk shipping.

In the last couple of years, much has continued as before – the company’s policy of agreeing short to medium-duration charters for its vessels, for example. But there has also been an injection of excitement and unpredictability at the Semiramis Paliou-led owner.

The combination caught the eye of the judges sufficiently to earn the company its second Dry Cargo Company of the Year Award.

A key move was the August 2023 deal to acquire the Sea Trade Holdings fleet of nine ultramaxs, which marked Diana’s debut in this segment of the dry bulk market. The company agreed a \$330m purchase price, of which two-thirds was paid in cash and the remaining one-third in the form of newly-issued common shares to the seller.

The delivery of the fleet, all built between 2015 and 2018, was completed in 2023. Prior to this, Diana’s smallest bulkers had been classic panamaxs.

In addition to widening its fleet profile, Diana has taken steps to address a decarbonised future for the industry. In September 2023, it inked contracts for two methanol dual-fuel kamsarmax newbuildings, agreeing a price of \$46m each for them to be built at Tsuneishi Group (Zhoushan) Shipbuilding in China.

The new methanol-burning vessels are scheduled to join the fleet, that currently consists of about 40 conventionally-fuelled bulkers of various sizes, in the second half of 2027.

In October 2023, Diana made perhaps its most intriguing diversification, becoming a partner in a German-led consortium ordering vessels for the offshore wind sector. The joint venture contracted two high-specification

commissioning service operation vessels (CSOVs) from Vard in Norway in a move that the company said reflected its commitment to a greener and more sustainable future.

The initial order for two CSOVs has subsequently been doubled to four units.

In its fourth annual ESG Report, Diana said that it reduced Scope 1 emissions by 10% in 2022 and improved its annual efficiency ratio. The company actively takes part in multiple initiatives and platforms, such as the Call to Action for Decarbonisation and the innovative Blue Visby Solution.

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

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# energy Navigation



*Tsakos Energy Navigation chief executive Nikolas Tsakos (centre) receives the Award from Paillette Palaiologou, vice president of Marine & Offshore division, SEEBA zone of sponsor Bureau Veritas. Also at the podium was Captain Christina Tsouganatou (right), one of TEN's masters*

## TANKER COMPANY OF THE YEAR

TSAKOS Energy Navigation (TEN) won the Tanker Company of the Year Award for the second time in its history in what was a landmark year for a company that has become one of the most solid shipping vehicles in the shipping industry worldwide.

The year marked the 30th anniversary of TEN and of its debut as a publicly-listed company. The company was launched in 1993 on the Oslo Stock Exchange with just four vessels and gained a public listing in New York in 2002.

Throughout the rollercoaster years of its decades of existence, TEN has raised funds and acquired ships counter-cyclically, in the traditional shipping fashion, ensuring sustainable growth in the long run.

Management, led by founder and chief executive Nikolas Tsakos, has kept to these principles even though the capital markets sometimes punished the company's stock price. In doing so, the company has become an

iconic example of a shipowner successfully managing a public company without diluting traditional shipping values of prudence and long-term thinking.

The company's chartering policy and financial performance reflect this. It has a blue-chip customer base and has clearly become a transporter of choice for certain major oil companies.

It has strategic partnerships with several major end-users, most notably Norwegian oil company Equinor (ex-Statoil).

Many of its vessels are on long-term charters giving a secure base level of income, but with profit sharing arrangements that also give the owner exposure to the spot market. Over the years TEN has always kept a healthy balance sheet.

Even during the crisis, it never restructured or failed to pay debt repayments. Since its listing on the NYSE in 2002 it has paid out more than

\$750m in dividends to common and preferred shareholders, regardless of cyclicality.

The panel also took note of the fact that 2022 and 2023 were the most financially successful years in the company's history with a net profit of \$237m in the first half of 2023. Furthermore, the latter part of 2023 saw TEN take delivery of its first LNG-powered tankers, high-spec eco-designed aframaxs constructed for long-term charter to Equinor.

In all, noted the judges, the company had an order book of nine tankers under its green growth programme including more dual-fuel aframaxs, two DP2 shuttle tankers, two scrubber-fitted suezmax vessels and two scrubber-fitted MR product tankers.

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

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# CRUISES



Gang Chen, manager of SWS, presents the Passenger Line of the Year Award to Christos Theophilidis, Celestyal Cruises' chief executive

## PASSENGER LINE OF THE YEAR

CELESTYAL Cruises is the successor to Louis Cruises, which recorded the only previous victory for a cruise line in the Passenger Line of the Year category, all the way back in 2010.

It was the deserved winner of the 2023 Award for the passenger shipping sector, having amply underlined its commitment to Greece and to its cruise product, overcoming the Covid-19 epidemic that was catastrophic for the cruise industry worldwide.

The year was notable for the introduction of a new ship, *Celestyal Journey*, that set sail on its maiden voyage for the company in September, on an inaugural seven-night 'Idyllic Aegean' itinerary visiting Thessaloniki, Kusadasi, Heraklion in Crete, Santorini, Mykonos, and Milos.

*Celestyal Journey* marked a clear elevation of the standard of Celestyal's cruise offering, with

an impressive increase in premium cabins with private balconies. But the vessel also has impressed with its public passenger services and spaces.

It offers an impressive selection of seven new restaurants. These dining options include a diverse range of experiences, including an exclusive chef's table, exciting live cooking demonstrations, enticing Asian cuisine, delightful tasting excursions into Greek cuisine, and delicious fresh Mediterranean cuisine.

The vessel has also provided an additional contribution from Celestyal to the Greek economy as €16m out of the total €26m invested in refurbishing and upgrading the vessel was spent in Greece.

The company now operates two vessels, both of which are intended to offer guests an intimate and highly personalised cruise

experience based on traditional Greek hospitality combined with destination cruising that focuses on Hellenic culture and authentic cultural experiences both onboard and onshore.

The Passenger Line of the Year Award is not the first recognition for Celestyal, which has won numerous Greek tourism industry awards as well as honours specific to the cruising sector.

The judging panel also praised the cruise line for its programmes supporting social causes, including schemes for children from islands such as Milos, Patmos, Samos and Ios.

*The Passenger Line of the Year Award was sponsored by Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. (SWS)*



# TEN

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# Maritime



*Panagiotis N. Tsakos (left) of the sponsoring Tsakos Group, presents the trophy to Fedon Tomazos, managing director of Cass Technava Maritime*

## SHIPBROKER OF THE YEAR

CASS Technava Maritime won the Shipbroker of the Year Award for an unprecedented third time, following its previous triumphs in 2010 and 2015.

The year was a busy one for newbuilding ordering by Greek shipowners after a relatively quiet year in 2022, and contracting of new ships with shipbuilders in the Far East has always been a competitive strength of the firm.

Cass Technava, that has always shone in the area of newbuilding contracting, counted 260 Greek vessels ordered between the start of the year and the awards ceremony. Of those, it could claim to have brokered 66, or one in every four, with an aggregate value running into billions.

Clients included many very prominent Greek shipowners but also some big names from overseas, too. The activity covered a wide

range of tankers, bulkers, containerships and gas carriers.

At the same time, Cass Technava brokered 30 secondhand transactions valued at more than \$850m, making it a record year for the firm with more than 100 transactions overall.

“With your trust,” managing director Fedon Tomazos told the awards dinner audience, “we break the myth that Greek shipping leads when it comes to shipowning but brings up the rear in shipbroking or other services.” Cass Technava was responsible for more newbuildings than just about any other shop, not only in Greece but also in the UK or elsewhere overseas, he said.

One major shipping company hailing Cass Technava in its nomination for the firm said: “We always enjoy the discussions with Cass Technava on a very wide range of subjects, such as alternative fuels and energy devices...

They are an excellent counterpart not only in the pure commercial sense of bringing the right project and assisting the finalization of newbuilding contracts but also during the newbuilding period in order to assist us to optimise the specification of the vessels during this energy transition period.”

It was also noted that the firm has an integrated international team including South Korean, Chinese and Japanese nationals that enables it to offer a “more complete service”.

Tomazos said: “We have good relations with the shipyards and we think that really gives a different result.”

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



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# BANK



*Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou, co-chief executive of sponsor Tototheo Maritime (left) presents the Shipping Financier of the Year Award to Constantinos Sotiriou, head of shipping for Alpha Bank*

## SHIPPING FINANCIER OF THE YEAR

ALPHA Bank has been successfully financing the shipping industry in Greece for more than 25 years and has been one of the most active supporters of Greek owners for a long period.

In addition to traditional ship finance lending, the bank also provides various specialised products and services to Greek-owned ocean-going shipping groups.

Following similarly active years in 2021 and 2022, Alpha provided a total of more than \$1bn in new financing during 2023, to new as well as to existing customers, a metric that contributed substantially to the panel's choice of destination for the 2023 Shipping Financier of the Year Award.

With a clientele of more than 80 shipping groups and a current shipping loan portfolio of more than \$3.5bn, the bank is among the top five lenders to Greek shipping in terms of portfolio size.

The bank says its objective is to continue to support its customers by modestly growing its portfolio further, aiming for the best possible response to its customers' needs.

According to one leading supporter of the bank's nomination, Alpha was not only among the most loyal and active shipping banks during the year, it had impressed for flexibility and speed of approvals as well, he said.

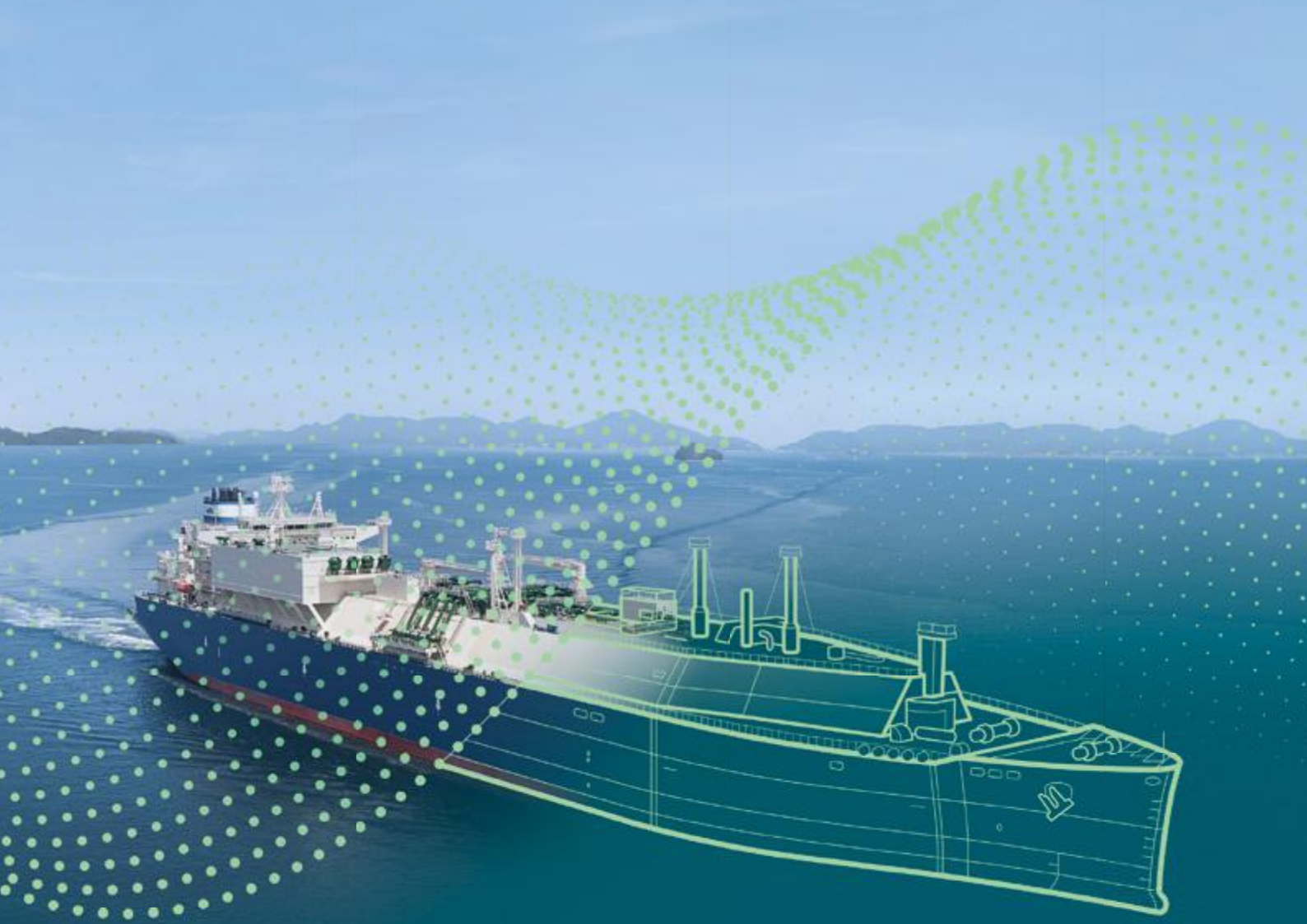
"Our job is quite simple, actually. We are here to assist and support," said Alpha's head of shipping Konstantinos Sotiriou, accepting the Award. "We assist our clients, by financing their projects and support them with their cash flows at times of difficult or challenging markets. This is what we have been doing for many years now.

"Many of our clients are here tonight. I would like to thank you all for your trust, support and cooperation," he added.

"We and other Greek banks are supporting a lot of smaller and medium-sized owners, whereas foreign banks are often focused more on larger corporates," Sotiriou told Lloyd's List in 2023. "There are owners who might have been overlooked by foreign lenders who now have easier access to finance and better growth opportunities."

Despite the attention to smaller and medium-sized owners, Alpha is not averse to taking part in big-ticket transactions now and again. It was one of two Greek banks that participated in the group of 14 banks that provided a record \$2.8bn refinancing package for GasLog in late 2023.

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



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# First



George Teriakidis (left) of sponsor DNV presents the Award to Erma First's president Eleni Polychronopoulou and managing director Konstantinos Stampidakis

## TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

TEN years after winning the Technical Achievement Award for a ballast water treatment system that has become one of the most successful systems in its field, Piraeus-based company Erma First once again impressed the judges, this time with an expanded product range contributing to reduced emissions and greater sustainability in shipping.

The prime focus of interest was the company's new Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) system resulting from a substantial research and development project. The recently-introduced CCS system, based on absorption technology and mixing of CO<sub>2</sub> flue gases with a proprietary amine solvent, is among the first systems to market and by an extraordinarily large margin the smallest system available, occupying much less space than competitor CCS systems.

The technology delivers a higher rate of amines regeneration, thus offering lower operating expenses, too. A version has also been developed specifically for short sea shipping, with decarbonising cargo and tourism traffic with the islands in mind.

One of the nominations for Erma First said that the system represented "a ground-breaking advancement" in the field of maritime CCS systems. It has earned an 'approval in principle' from Lloyd's Register, enabling it to proceed with onboard pilot testing.

In addition, Erma First was recognised for two other products to support reduction of emissions.

The first of these, 'Blue Connect', is an Alternative Marine Power (AMP) solution for vessels when berthed, facilitating a safe, efficient and reliable shore power connection.

It allows vessels to safely shut down auxiliary engines in port, reducing noise and vibration but also eliminating emissions including particulate matter, carbon as well as nitrogen and sulphur oxides. It has been classified as an emission control device by class society DNV.

Judges also cited Erma First for 'Flexcap', the first in a series of energy-saving devices planned by the company.





The product builds on the proven effectiveness of propeller cap fins in enhancing efficiency and the resulting increase in propulsion efficiency can yield fuel savings of up to 4%, leading to greater sustainability and reduced operating costs.

*The Technical Achievement Award was sponsored by DNV.*



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Marios Iliopoulos (left), head of strategic planning & development of sponsor Seajets, presents the Safety Award to Aristeidis Deligiannis, chief executive and co-founder of Black Rope

## THE SAFETY AWARD

MOORING ropes are critical to ship safety whenever docking at a port or terminal while mooring operations are considered to be among the most hazardous tasks for crew on board a vessel.

Being struck by mooring ropes or wires is often cited by research studies among the most common causes of fatalities or serious injuries on board.

Against this backdrop, it hardly counts as surprising that from the list of nominated candidates in the category the judging panel chose a rope manufacturer, Black Rope, as winner of the 2023 Safety Award.

Although a relatively new company, Black Rope has positioned itself as a one-stop mooring partner for shipping companies globally. It manufactures its own-braided ropes in three factories with a capacity of up to 85 ropes daily, backed up by stock points in 11 countries and with 10 mooring rope experts based in Greece, Cyprus, Turkey and the UK.

The panel based its choice heavily on the company's safety emphasis and its accent on providing expert in-house training for shipping company clients as well as onboard training for crew.

In particular, though, it was impressed by Black Rope's digital solutions contributing to mooring safety. It has released its own mooring monitoring and management software, 'Safe Line'.

According to the successful nomination, Safe Line provides real-time information and data processing on the condition of mooring lines and is a valuable tool for checking maintenance and replacement requirements. The software can be connected to a company's entire fleet for a full, integrated mooring lines management plan.

Most importantly, Safe Line aims to be a proactive tool for helping to avoid accidents, such as snapbacks, that may arise from mismanagement, a lack of data or poor

information, and wrong supply.

"All of us have to contribute in order to ensure safety on board for our seafarers who are risking their lives, missing their families and keeping our world rolling," said co-founder and chief executive Aristeidis Deligiannis.

"Thank you to the judging panel for showing us their trust. We promise we are going to do our best to ensure maximum safety on board and environmental security, according to demanding shipping industry requirements," he said.

*The Safety Award was sponsored by Seajets.*

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# Achievement



*Marina Hadjimanolis, shipping deputy minister of the Republic of Cyprus, presents the trophy for Helmepe Academy to Helmepe vice president George Karageorgiou*

## ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING

HELMPEA, the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association, was founded in 1982 by the shipowning community, led by shipowner George P. Livanos, and Greek seafarers, as a radical voluntary effort to protect the seas from pollution that was ahead of its time.

It is a four-time winner of the environmental protection, now sustainability, award at the Greek Shipping Awards and 2023 marked its second triumph in the education and training category.

The judging panel recognised Helmepe Academy as a dynamic educational platform that has transformed the landscape for thousands of participants by training, reskilling and upskilling maritime professionals as well as raising awareness of marine environmental issues for a diverse tranche of society including seafarers, shipping office personnel, youth, educators and the public at large.

It does so through a multitude of different methodologies, techniques and tools – labs,

seminars, webinars, dialogues, masterclasses and mentoring, using an open-source participatory approach that caters to diverse audiences and integrates the views and needs of the participants.

Likewise, programme content spans a wide spectrum, addressing essential topics such as oil pollution prevention and response, environmental compliance, maritime safety, cybersecurity, seafarer well-being, soft skills, diversity, ESG and sustainable maritime finance.

Its Marine Environmental Awareness course, certified in accordance with IMO Model Course 1.38, has enhanced the knowledge of more than 2,000 merchant marine officers since 2011.

The Academy's Refresher Training programme has constantly evolved to address the industry's changing needs and practices. It features more than 30 seminars, webinars and labs annually, presented by a roster of more than 80 experts on more than 75 maritime-related subjects. The

programme has reached in excess of 30,000 seafarers of various nationalities, as well as officers of the Hellenic Navy and Coast Guard and shipping sector professionals.

It is active in guiding young people to career opportunities through initiatives such as 'Blue Generation' and 'Blue Horizons', while it has developed courses like 'Intro to Shipping' and 'Ocean Literacy' that are available free.

For the last 25 years, Helmepe scholarships have enabled young scientists to continue their postgraduate studies in shipping, environment and education, rewarding excellence and supporting less financially well-off students

In 2023, Helmepe announced it is partnering in a first Post Graduate Diploma on 'Sustainability in Shipping'.

*The Award for Achievement in Education or Training was sponsored by the Shipping Deputy Ministry, Republic of Cyprus.*



## Support Transition to Zero-Emission

The shift toward a zero-emission society has accelerated in various fields, with governments making their GHG targets more ambitious and sustainable finance gaining more attention. Likewise, the time has come for the maritime industry to systematically manage the GHG emissions from shipping, as represented by the introduction of a GHG emissions evaluation framework into international shipping.

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*Ioannis Vrontorakis (left), general manager of ClassNK Piraeus Office, presents the Award to Costas Kontes, managing director of V.Ships Greece*

## PIRAEUS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AWARD

AS THE world's preeminent centre for hands-on shipowners and operators, Greece has long been acknowledged as a tough market for third party shipmanagers. With most shipping companies possessing plentiful management knowledge in-house, only the best outside managers have made any impact at all.

V.Ships Greece has been an exception, especially in the 10 years since effectively relaunching its office with the opportunity of an innovative partnership with leading containership owner Costamare.

The last year was a notable one that saw the company grow the fleet under its management by some 15% to more than 100 vessels while the work force doubled to about 200 staff.

The fleet under management comprises numerous different types of vessel including dry cargo, bulkers, containerships, tankers, multipurpose vessels and others. Most of these are Greek-owned but the Greek office also

manages tonnage for several other nationalities.

Also in 2023, V.Ships Greece moved to new 3,500 sq m office premises in Piraeus providing an exceptional work space for all staff and facilities for training and hosting meetings and forums for outside organisations as well as internal needs.

Education is a priority for the company and it has taken pride in opening doors for young people. It cooperates with various universities and every year it trains a large number of graduates, offering internships to 20. In addition to the care towards youth, V.Ships Greece has shown itself ready to invest in senior personnel. Last September, the team was strengthened with appointment of Dimitrios Patrikios, a veteran of the Onassis shipping operation and currently chairman of the Intertanko Hellenic Mediterranean Panel.

V.Ships Greece is very active in the community

as well as being committed to maintaining outstanding services for Greek shipping. It encourages staff to volunteer for community initiatives and participates in numerous local non-governmental organisations and activities, such as a recent beach clean-up that saw 250 volunteers gather 160 kg of waste.

Accepting the Award, V.Ships Greece managing director Costas Kontes dedicated it to "our teams on board and on shore that have been working hard and do the extra mile with passion, dedication and responsibility in making sure that our clients are supported and are properly attended."

*The Piraeus International Centre Award was sponsored by ClassNK.*



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HE Ambassador Julie Lymberopoulos, ambassador and general consul of Panama in Greece, presents the Award to Aris Manassakis (right), co-founder & chief operating officer of Procureship

## LLOYD'S LIST INTELLIGENCE BIG DATA AWARD

THE winner of the Lloyd's List Intelligence Big Data Award for 2023, Procureship, was established in 2016 by two young Greek entrepreneurs, Grigoris Lamprou and Aris Manassakis, with the aim of revolutionising marine procurement.

Fast forward eight years and the company can now make a claim to be not only a leader in the Greek market but a preferred marine e-purchasing platform globally.

In its short lifetime to date, the company's long-term vision has provided the drive to constantly search for new areas of improvement and to broaden its range of provided services.

Procureship aims to make life easier for ship operators and marine purchasers by leveraging advanced technological capabilities in a simple and easy-to-use interface. The platform eliminates all unnecessary manual work, offering the ability to send numerous requests

for quote (RFQs) to multiple suppliers with one click and receive all the quotations directly, all at a faster response time.

Additionally, the company has used Big Data to create a state-of-the-art recommendation engine, an intelligent advanced algorithm that suggests the most suitable suppliers for any type of RFQ, broadening a customer's existing supplier network.

Continuing to innovate, Procureship has developed a unique e-invoicing module employing machine learning to automatically identify and match invoice items with delivery order items, an IHM product auto-collecting needed IMO forms electronically, and a new freight forwarding optimisation dashboard.

Procureship allows operators to continue working within their ERP/purchasing environment and the platform enables users to create their own custom reports based on clean and comparable data, making it an

essential global purchasing benchmarking tool.

The company's growth, evidenced by the fact it now employs more than 40 people at its Athens headquarters, has been built not only on its exceptional tech solution but by combining this with a highly responsive support service for customers.

By October 2023, some 1,750 vessels worldwide were using Procureship's service and the number of items purchased through the platform had reached 6m.

A landmark year in 2023 saw Procureship win a number of big shipping company procurement tenders across Europe and open offices in Copenhagen and Singapore.

*The Lloyd's List Intelligence Big Data Award was sponsored by Panama Maritime Authority.*

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# Grimaldi



Jerry Kalogiratos (left) of Capital Maritime & Trading presents the Award to winner Emanuele Grimaldi

## INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

EMANUELE Grimaldi became the first two-time winner of the International Personality of the Year Award that is reserved for non-Greeks prominent in any aspect of the maritime world who have stood out in terms of their contribution to Greek shipping or to the maritime industries generally. He first won the award more than a decade ago, in 2011.

Grimaldi was cited by the judging panel as being the outstanding candidate for the 2023 award for at least three major reasons, starting with his successful chairmanship of the International Chamber of Shipping.

Grimaldi has been tireless in promoting the industry and frequently aligns with Greek positions on many of the most important issues facing the industry.

Also of note has been his successful leadership of the family Grimaldi Group, which has been a leader in green shipping and a major

exponent of Europe's Motorways of the Seas programme.

The year was a landmark for the group. Among many other initiatives over the previous 12 months it had ordered 17 ammonia-ready car carriers of 9,000 ceu capacity. Altogether, at the time of the awards, it had 26 ships under construction at a cost of over \$1.5bn.

In addition, Grimaldi was recognised for continuing to invest in Greece.

His best-known investment in the country continues to be Crete-based group subsidiary Minoan Lines, operator of a fleet of four high-class ferries on regular services in the Aegean.

This year the Italian shipping and logistics group won two tenders to invest in Greek ports. Grimaldi was picked as preferred bidder for a majority stake in Heraklion Port Authority, with a bid of €80m. That followed a successful

bid of €84.7m to buy a similar stake in Igoumenitsa Port. Grimaldi has plans to invest in and dramatically upgrade both ports.

The importance of such deals was underlined by the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund privatisation agency after the Heraklion tender result was announced. In a statement it said: "The high price offered... underlines the commitment of the international investment community in the development prospects of the port of Heraklion, Crete and the Greek economy as a whole."

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

# Greek Shipping's 'Dinner of 2023'



A record number of winners gather on stage at the end of a milestone event for Greek shipping



The SWS table reflected joy at returning to Athens after the Covid years



Above (top): Maria Angelicoussis and George Procopiou congratulate each other – the duo shared four awards. Above: sharing the burden with mother Elizabeth Angelicoussis

Photographer Emmanoula Bourbouhakis shows how it's done

From top: the event was hosted by Andriana Paraskevopoulou and Nigel Lowry; CMB Financial Leasing clink glasses; from left - former Greek prime minister Antonis Samaras with US ambassador George Tsunis, Michalis Pantazopoulos of the Liberian Registry and Franman's Costis Frangoulis; Olympiakos supporters – Panagiotis and George Angelopoulos congratulate Evangelos Marinakis on winning the 'Deal of the Decade' prize; support is also at hand from daughter Eleni





Janet Wood presents memento trophies to the Tsakos Group, Marichem Marigases and Bureau Veritas.



Three generations: from left – Eleni Polychronopoulou with father John Polychronopoulos and daughter Eleana Alafouzou



From left: Emmanouel Symeonidis, American Club chief executive Dorothea Ioannou and Bimco general manager for Greece and Cyprus Elena Tassioula



The Procopiou family celebrates its '20 Years Achievement Award' for LNG arm Dynagas as well as George Procopiou's second 'Personality of the Year' Award



Union of Greek Shipowners president Melina Travlos joins Emanuele Grimaldi in celebrating the latter's award as 'International Personality of the Year'



Shipowner Aristides Pittas (left) is impressed by Captain Panagiotis Tsakos' ride



# SAFE BULKERS



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Konstantinos Adamopoulos (left), chief financial officer of sponsor Safe Bulkers, presents the Seafarer of the Year trophy to Captain Kyriakos Mouzakis

# SEAFARER OF THE YEAR

TRADITIONALLY, the Seafarer of the Year Award goes to a Greek master who has rendered humanitarian service in a rescue operation and the presentation of the trophy is among the highlights of the annual Greek Shipping Awards.

This certainly remained true for 2023 with one unique wrinkle: instead of a rescue of people in danger at sea, the rescue that was recognised in the award was of people in peril on land.

The panel of judges had no hesitation in choosing Captain Kyriakos Mouzakis as the Seafarer of the Year for 2023, accepting the strong recommendation of the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO) that annually puts forward the shortlist of candidates for the judges to consider.

As the PNO said in its commendation: "On August 21 during the great fires of Evros, the

Alexandroupolis Hospital was evacuated and the vessel [Zante Ferries' ro-ro passenger ferry *Adamantios Korais*] was turned into a floating hospital in full operation.

"On the same day, the patients were safely transported by the vessel to the port of Kavala. The mission was extremely difficult but it was completely successful," the PNO stated.

The fire was the largest ever recorded in Europe. The ferry, which normally provides a regular service between Alexandroupolis and the islands of Samothraki and Limnos, carried about 90 patients, as well as the doctors and nurses caring for them, to safety.

Capt Mouzakis began his career on oceangoing cargo ships and at one time was an officer for the Onassis Group. After nine years on international-trading vessels, he switched to the coastal ferry trades and in particular the Ionian Sea where he has

commanded several different ferries. A master for 25 years, he says that the *Adamantios Korais* is his favourite ship.

This was not the first time he had received an award. In 2017 he was honoured by the masters and mates union for sailing in very bad weather conditions to bring an unwell child from the island of Zakynthos to Kyllini for medical treatment.

"I have always been proud of the profession I chose to follow," he told the audience. "In the end we are all judged by what we do in whatever difficult situations confront us."

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



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Vassilios Kroustallis (left) of ABS presents the Award to Maria Angelicoussis, chief executive of the Angelicoussis Group, the owner of the ‘Antonis I. Angelicoussis’ (inset right)

# SHIP OF THE YEAR

MARAN Tankers Management (MTM), the tanker arm of the Angelicoussis Group, took delivery of the liquefied natural gas-powered dual-fuel (DF) very large crude carrier *Antonis I. Angelicoussis* at the beginning of 2023.

According to the group, the Greek-flagged vessel, named after the group’s founder and an icon of Greek maritime history, was “a milestone in the group’s decarbonisation strategy” and “the most environmentally-friendly VLCC in the world.” These factors and the fact that the vessel became the first DF VLCC under Greek ownership proved persuasive for the judging panel.

The state-of-the-art vessel was built by Samsung Heavy Industries and is classed by ABS. With a cargo capacity of 320,916 dwt, the tanker has been designed and built to embody reliability, efficiency and operational flexibility.

It can consume both liquid fuel and LNG, housed in high-pressure Type C tanks with a capacity of 7,50 cu m. A first LNG bunkering operation was completed in July, 2023.

The tanker is equipped with the latest-generation dual-fuel MAN ES 7G80 ME-GI Tier III main engine, modern diesel generators, dual-fuel auxiliary boilers and a shaft generator that increases energy efficiency.

Thanks to its efficient machinery, hydrodynamic hull and propeller design, advanced anti-fouling technology and energy-saving devices such as rudder bulb and stator fins, the ship achieved a 45% reduction in EEDI compared with the Phase 0 baseline.

MTM’s own tank-to-wake analysis showed the *Antonis I. Angelicoussis* emitted 42% less carbon dioxide than an equivalent VLCC of 10 years old. Further verification of its credentials came

when it was the first DF VLCC certified by the Green Award Foundation.

In addition to its impressive design, the VLCC is fitted with an array of state-of-the-art equipment, including an ORCA AI-based navigation and collision avoidance system, energy-saving variable-frequency drives for engine-room fans and cooling sea water pumps.

Other notable equipment and features include an improved shaft-alignment notation, HMPE ropes and a real-time performance monitoring system with shaft torque meter and Coriolis-type flowmeters for fuel and gas.

The Ship of the Year Award was sponsored by ABS.

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Elina Papageorgiou (left), vice president Greece for sponsor Lloyd's Register, presenting the 2023 Sustainability Award to Charis Plakantonaki, chief strategy officer of Star Bulk Carriers

## THE SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

STAR Bulk Carriers is widely considered a leader in the dry bulk shipping industry, and in particular, sustainable dry bulk shipping.

Listed on Nasdaq, the company controlled a fleet of 120 vessels, ranging from supramaxes up to newcastlemaxes, prior to a merger with Eagle Bulk Shipping that was announced in late-2023.

Few companies in its sector worldwide have committed so strongly to the green transition and to environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles.

The Greece-based owner is one of the few in the industry to publish an annual ESG report developed in accordance with the new Global Reporting Initiative Standards (2021) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) for Marine Transportation (2018), and in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, with auditing of specific

indicators by international auditors and accountants.

Based on the new GRI 2021 requirements, Star Bulk has engaged its stakeholders to develop a new impact materiality assessment that identifies and prioritises both positive and negative impacts towards the environment, people, and the wider economy.

According to its latest ESG report in October 2023, Star Bulk notably enhanced its ESG practices and performance.

For the first time it measured and reported the company's Scope 3 emissions. It introduced an ESG Committee at Board level, and became the first dry bulk company worldwide to undergo a Dry-BMSA audit with RightShip.

Through applying a range of both technical and operational measures, it improved the fleet's energy efficiency and reduced its carbon

footprint, cutting total fleet CO2 emissions by 4.6% over the 12-month period.

Star Bulk is a member of the "Getting to Zero" Project and has been active in cooperating with the Iron Ore Consortium on Green Corridors. Its recent study showed that ships powered by clean ammonia could carry iron ore from Australia to East Asia as soon as 2028.

The company has been diligently renewing its fleet, selling a number of older ships and looking towards increased fuel efficiency. As a step towards this, it has secured eight long-term charter-in EEDI-Phase 3 latest generation eco vessels, built at first class shipyards. It has also ordered fuel-efficient new kamsarmaxes outright in China.

*The Sustainability Award was sponsored by Lloyd's Register.*

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*Petros Panagiotidis (right) 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

ONE of the several nominations for Petros Panagiotidis as the winner of the Next Generation Shipping Award underlined that he is not one to chase after publicity. Rather, the nomination asserted, he believes in Frank Ocean's advice: "Work hard in silence, let your success be your noise." Nonetheless, while still in his early 30s, Panagiotidis has made a lot of noise with his actions during his short career to date!

In 2017 he launched his first company, Castor Maritime, and listed it on Nasdaq in 2019 through a 'direct listing' that does not involve a traditional initial public offering.

During the next three years, Castor raised more than \$400m in new equity and was able to take advantage of market cycles with a determined buying spree. The fleet rapidly increased to 30 vessels, predominantly dry bulk carriers but also with a number of tankers. In the closing stages of 2022, the

company also struck a deal to acquire a pair of containerships, its first move in the container sector.

The expanded and diversified fleet provided Castor with the basis for a stellar financial performance in 2022. The company posted net income of \$118.6m for the year.

The last year saw Castor spin off its crude and product tankers into a second publicly-listed company, Toro Corp. Panagiotidis lost little time in diversifying Toro's activities by purchasing a quartet of liquid petroleum gas carriers.

The year was also notable for some well-timed sales from both fleets. Toro's profits from asset-plays have exceeded \$100m as Panagiotidis took advantage of hot tanker values to sell six of Toro's tankers.

Sales of bulkers from Castor's fleet have also gathered pace. However, 2023 also saw

Castor acquire a stake of close to 15% in rival US-listed dry bulk owner Eagle Bulk Shipping.

Panagiotidis' story was a compelling one that could not be ignored by the judging panel.

"The Next Generation Shipping Award not only celebrates the achievements of my generation but serves as a reminder of the impressive legacy of the Greek shipowners and pioneers who have excelled in this captivating industry across the globe for decades if not for centuries," Panagiotidis said, accepting the Award. "Even attempting to step into their shoes is undoubtedly a challenging task."

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



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# G. Moundreas

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Nicholas G. Moundreas (right) accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award from Costis Frangoulis, chief executive of sponsor Franman

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

A WORTHY winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Nicholas G. Moundreas has been one of the stalwarts of the Piraeus shipping scene for decades.

Over the years, through several separate ventures, he has been involved with countless different vessels, yet his career has also been notable for living up to a steady set of principles.

His group's maritime history can be traced back to 1916 when Moundreas' father, Georgios Moundreas, moved from Mani to Piraeus and established a company for the brokerage and chartering of ships.

Nicholas Moundreas began his own career as a freight broker but soon began investing in vessels. In 1964, he bought a first ship jointly with Captain Nicos Frangos, the *Good Hope*, and two years later the pair established Good Faith Shipping. For more than four decades the alliance flourished due to the chemistry between the two men, a rare example of such a long-running and successful partnership in Greek shipping.

With Frangos bringing much of the technical knowledge and Moundreas contributing much

of the commercial acumen, they complemented each other. Over the course of its history, the company operated more than 200 ships, becoming one of the largest Greek owners of its day with a diversified fleet of about 50 ships.

Moundreas pioneered relations with the Chinese market, visiting Peking (Beijing) in 1966 and forging extensive relationships. In 1974, Moundreas bought the *Elwood Mead* for Good Faith Shipping. Renamed *Good Leader* it can be considered the first capesize under Greek ownership.

At the same time, Moundreas also tended to his family's shipping business, relaunched in 1974 under the name Nicholas G. Moundreas Shipping. While the company was active in owning and managing vessels, it was particularly notable as a major chartering broker with groundbreaking collaborations with a number of countries, including China. This served the wider Piraeus market until the late 1980s when it focused mainly on the needs of the family and of Good Faith.

In recent years much of his experience has been focused on NGM Energy, established in

2003 with daughters Hariklia and Natalia, and son George. The company has been one of the most prolific players on the secondhand sale and purchase market, extending the group's decades-long track record for astute deals and well-timed asset plays.

NGM Energy has been adept at owning and operating a wide range of tonnage, from tankers ranging from smaller chemical-product carriers up to very large crude carriers, and on the dry bulk side medium-sized bulkers up to capesizes.

According to the winner's citation for Nicholas Moundreas, in addition to the phenomenal amount of shipping business packed into his long career, "his high reputation in the industry has also been formed from a lifetime of being true to his word."

The Lloyd's List/Propeller Club Lifetime Achievement Award was sponsored by Franman.

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Kriton Lentoudis (right) accepts the Greek Shipping Newsmaker of the Year Award from George Prassinos, Med, UK & ME Marine Lubricants Manager of sponsor ExxonMobil Marine

# GREEK SHIPPING NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR

NEWSMAKER of the Year is an award category that traditionally is decided directly by senior editorial staff at Lloyd's List and, given the vibrancy of the Greek shipping scene, there is usually no shortage of strong candidates for the award.

Despite an exceptionally busy and active 2023 for numerous players, none were more compelling than Kriton Lentoudis, head of Evalend Shipping, as winner of the Newsmaker of the Year title.

In 2022, Evalend had celebrated 50 years since the company was established by Lentoudis' father. Kriton Lentoudis took the reins in 1984. However, the last few years have been the most eye-catching period in the company's history.

The company's diversified fleet has expanded to more than 50 vessels on the water and Evalend has made headlines for the scale and the diversity of its order book that last year

grew to an impressive 38 newbuildings of various kinds.

To justify the Newsmaker of the Year accolade you hardly need look beyond Lentoudis' recent debut in the liquefied natural gas sector. The owner inked contracts worth more than \$1bn with HD Hyundai Heavy Industries for four 174,000 cu m LNG carriers for delivery in 2027.

The move capped a busy year that saw Evalend contract medium-range and long-range-one tankers as well as bulkers at Yangzijiang Shipbuilding and scrubber-fitted suezmax tankers at Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries.

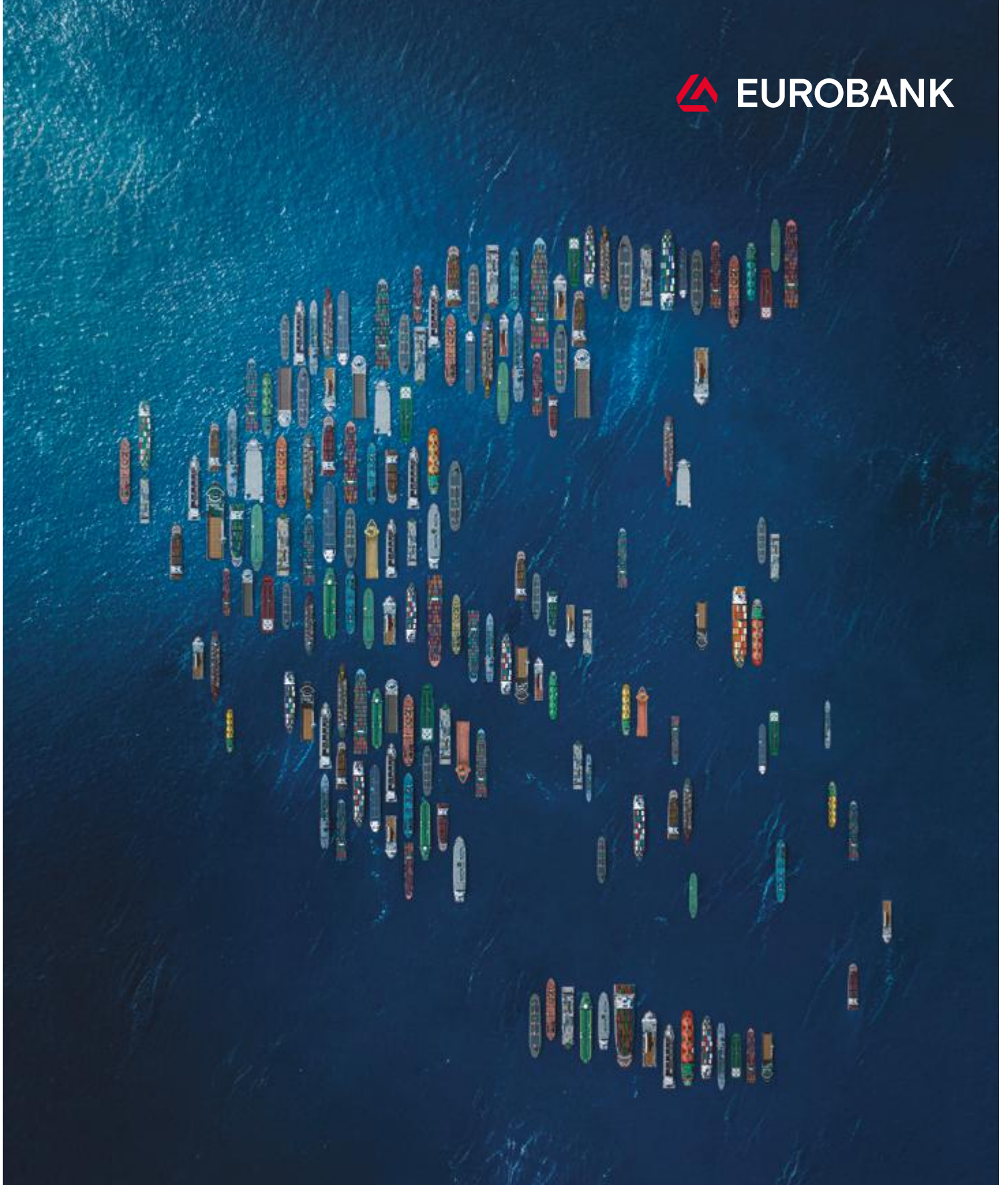
From 2021 Evalend had the foresight to build up a large order book of dual-fuel very large gas carriers, with seven of 88,000 cu m ordered from Hyundai Mipo Dockyard for delivery starting in August 2024 and five of 91,000 cu m VLGCs, all of which are now

delivered, from Hyundai Samho.

Evalend took advantage of the sharp rise in prices for newbuildings, reselling a medium-sized gas carrier newbuilding and two of the new 91,000 cu m VLGCs. The HMD-built VLGCs that are scheduled to join the fleet can carry ammonia at about 87% capacity and look cheap compared with recent very large ammonia carrier orders.

Evalend also made news in 2023 as one of the most frequent users of the UN-protected Black Sea Grain Initiative, loading cargoes from Ukrainian ports. It was also the first Greek company to send a vessel through the reopened Ukrainian grain corridor in late September.

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



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

## GREEK SHIPPING PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

NOMINATIONS for George Procopiou, who has become the first personality to win this award twice, cited not only his extraordinary reinvestment in shipping through one of the world's largest private order books, but also his takeover of Hellenic Shipyards as a strategic contribution to the country's broader maritime sector and to the Greek economy.

Starting in 2022, Procopiou has placed orders for a total of 68 new vessels, sprawling across the three sectors to which he has been faithful for a good many years: LNG carriers, tankers and dry bulk carriers.

As 2023 drew towards its close, the first three LNG carriers had been delivered, leaving an order book consisting of 11 LNG carriers, six very large crude carriers, two suezmaxes, 16 long-range-two aframax tankers, eight long-range-one panamaxs and, on the dry side, no fewer than 22 kamsarmax bulkers.

All the new tankers and bulkers will be conventionally fuelled, reflecting Procopiou's

firm belief that future fuels are some years away from becoming widespread in shipping. Fuels such as methanol, ammonia or hydrogen were "for the next, next generation, maybe my granddaughter's," he told a conference in October 2023.

Uncertainty over the specifics of the transition that shipping is facing make it difficult to gauge almost any opinion about the best course of action for a shipowner to take. But Procopiou has often enough turned out to be ahead of the game.

An example was his entry into the LNG sector, which was predicated on the evolution of a nascent spot market for LNG carriers — and, uniquely, building ice-class vessels with an eye on the Russian gas market.

More recently, with North American LNG exports becoming a major factor in the market, his company Dynagas was the first to order larger 200,000 cu m vessels, establishing a significant order book in this size segment.

Demand among charterers has already validated the owner's wisdom and the commercial success of the new LNG carrier programme no doubt provided a margin of comfort for his recent ordering spree for tankers and bulkers.

The year was also a notable one for him as the only Greek owner currently with floating storage and regasification units. Procopiou's two 2021-built FSRUs, *Transgas Force* and *Transgas Power*, commenced long-term charters to Germany in a key step the country has taken to replace much of its dependency on Russian gas supplied by pipeline. The two FSRUs have since been sold.

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



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## What they said...

**SPONSOR Harris Antoniou, Neptune Maritime Leasing:**

"It's a pivotal moment for the industry as technologies converge and I think at this pivotal moment what it takes to be successful is the spirit of innovation. And we believe that Greek shipping will continue to be successful because it's characterised by the spirit of innovation."



**SPONSOR Ling Zhou, CMB Financial Leasing:**

We are here to support Greek shipping long term and I believe China and Greece are two old civilisations with a lot in common. We at CMB will do our utmost to uphold this traditional and amicable relationship. Allow me to propose a toast to the happiness and health of everyone here and to the prosperity of Greek shipping."

**HOST Nigel Lowry:**

"We are very happy to celebrate our 20th anniversary as the Greek Shipping Awards this evening. But we never forget that Greek shipping is the inspiration, the raison d'être and the very substance of our awards."



**HOST Andriana Paraskevopoulou:**

"Greek shipping is No.1 in the world and thanks to its leadership position it's the steam engine of the Greek economy."



**SPONSOR Christina Margelou, Eurobank:**

"Thank you Nigel, thank you Andriana, for 20 years of wonderful events. So no worries I'm just going to say 20 words... it's a promise."

**SPONSOR Costis Frangoulis, Franman:**

"During these 20 years, Greek shipping continued to No.1 but at the same time it doubled the capacity of its fleet, something that makes us especially optimistic for the future. I also want to underline that in parallel, the maritime cluster and the service companies here have strengthened a lot and they have reached a very high level."



**WINNER Fedon Tomazos, Cass Technava Maritime:**

"Being involved in one in every four Greek newbuilding orders over the last year gives us great pleasure as with your trust we break a myth that Greek shipping leads in terms of shipowning but brings up the rear in services. That's not so. We do more Greek newbuildings than any office in the UK or anywhere elsewhere, with your trust."



**WINNER Nicholas G. Moundreas:**

"It's a joy to be here with you all. This is a great honour from Lloyds List and the Propeller Club but initially it troubled me as it's an award for 'overaged'... But anyway, it's much better that it happens now rather than in the Hall of Fame! There I would not have been able to be with you and it would have halved the pleasure!"



**WINNER Petros Panagiotidis:**

"The Next Generation Shipping Award not only celebrates the achievements of my generation but serves as a reminder of the impressive legacy of the Greek shipowners and pioneers who have excelled in this captivating industry across the globe for decades if not for centuries. Even attempting to step into their shoes is undoubtedly a challenging task."

**WINNER Evangelos M. Marinakis:**

"What always makes me happy and excited is the journey and this journey started back in 2007 on Nasdaq... All these mergers were very successful and created enormous value for our unitholders, so it's not only the journey. It's also sharing success, sharing wealth with our unitholders and of course with all the people in our offices and on our vessels who have contributed the most in order to make these successful deals."



**SPONSOR Vassilios Kroustallis, ABS:**

"Technology, fuels, regulations, financing, geopolitics... the nature of shipping is changing and the pace of change is breathtaking. Here in the epicentre of global shipping you understand that whatever the pace of technological change, whatever the features of the latest ships, it means nothing if we cannot ensure that safety advances alongside."



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**WINNER Captain Kyriakos Mouzakis:**

"I have always been proud of my profession but I'm especially proud this evening... In the end we are all judged by what we do in whatever difficult situations we have to overcome."



**WINNER Maria Angelicoussis, The Angelicoussis Group:**

"This vessel represents the three generations of the Angelicoussis Group... The *Antonis I*. Angelicoussis embodies our efforts to transform shipping into a zero carbon industry and ensure a sustainable world for generations to come, while also promoting the Greek maritime culture."

**WINNER George Procopiou:**

"Over the years, having been inspired by the example of previous shipping personalities, antique and contemporary, the ancient ruins of Delos and Akrotiri but also Troy, Alexandria, Syracuse, Trapani, Malta, embedded in my conscience that I can, too. So the great journey started... The journey is still in full sail... Let's hope that the 10 grandchildren will keep the boat sailing!"



**SPECIAL GUEST Nikos Kaklamanakis:**

"My congratulations to the maritime community. In difficult times, As Aristotle said, you can't control the sea but you can adjust your sails. You have adjusted your sails and succeeded. You have doubly succeeded because you have the strength to share the good fortune with others."



**CHARITY PARTNER Sylvana Strakosa, Argo:**

"The pleasure and emotion tonight is great because you [the Greek shipping community] have been supporting Argo for 40 years. We exist because you are who you are."



**SPONSOR Paillette Palaialogou, Bureau Veritas:**

"We are leading the way in the field of technical expertise. The challenges that emerge from the focus on a more sustainable future find the Greek owners ready to innovate and prove yet again their name as the masters of the seas."



**WINNER Nikolas Tsakos, Tsakos Energy Navigation:**

"I have here next to me one of our most talented young captains – Christina Tzoannatos and she is in her sixth year as a captain. She has been on 21 of our company vessels so far. We need more diversity in order to increase our seafarer footprint. Without you, Christina, and people like you, taking care of the day-to-day safety of our ships and crews and cargo, none of us would be able to be here."



**SPONSOR Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou, Tototheo Maritime:**

"The Award spotlights those who embody vision, resilience and the capability to navigate the intricate landscape of the maritime world... the need for concrete financial solutions has never been more apparent."



**SPONSOR Jerry Kalogiratos, Capital Ship Management:**

"What we have achieved over the years across different segments, across different transactions, has always been with our partners in the international shipping community. With shipping decarbonisation and the need for regulation going forward, the ability to coordinate and the need for partners internationally is more significant than ever."



**WINNER Emanuele Grimaldi:**

"We have invested in very important concessions here in Greece both in Igoumenitsa and in Heraklion and I will do my best, and my company will do its best, to keep in good custody these ports and to develop them in coming years with the environmentally friendly new rules."



**WINNER Charis Plakantonakis, Star Bulk Carriers:**

"Climate change and its devastating effects are driving companies to reassess their strategies and their business models. At Star Bulk, we try every day to support our people at sea and on shore, to respect the ecosystems that we operate in and to align with our partners across the value chain. We hope that one day we may count among the companies that have made this world a better place."



**SPONSOR Elina Papageorgiou, Lloyd's Register:**

"Greek shipping has consistently positioned itself on the front line... As we navigate the seas of change, let Greek shipping continue to inspire us all, proving that the pursuit of sustainable shipping is not just a journey but a legacy for generations to come."





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**WINNER Kriton Lentoudis:**

"It's a great honour to receive this award, especially as in past years it has been awarded to great names of Greek shipping. I want to dedicate it to the memory of my father, thanks to whom I entered this business, the shipping sector, to my family and above all to the team of Evalend. I owe a lot to them."



**WINNER Simos P. Palios, Diana Shipping:**

"It's always a joy to have these celebrations for Greek shipping as it's No.1 in the world but it also has a lot more to give."

**SPONSOR Gang Chen, SWS:**

"I feel very lucky to be here as in the past three years I have only been able to say hello to my Greek friends by video... Tonight it's the 20th which is a very important date. For SWS, in the past 20 years we have already delivered more than 140 ships to Greek shipowners."



**WINNER Costas Kontes, V.Ships Greece:**

"In this great country where shipping is not only a tradition but a passion and way of life we have been able to build up an office and support the local industry in developing young talent."



**SPONSOR Christos Timagenis, Timagenis Law Firm**

A lot of things have changed since then [the first event in 2004 when Timagenis Law Firm was among the original sponsors]. The visuals were very different! But a few things have not changed – Nigel's alluring voice and the impossibility to find a parking spot if you don't arrive two hours earlier!



**HOST Nigel Lowry:**

"One of the interesting things about putting together this year's event has been looking back over the photos of two decades. I am sure that there are plenty of people in the audience, past award winners, who have been absolutely horrified to see how they looked 20 years ago... No?"



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*Signed copies for charity: hosts Andriana Paraskevopoulou and Nigel Lowry introduce the book '20 Years Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards', of which 10 signed copies were auctioned in aid of 'Argo'*

## Stylish hardback history offers a visual feast spanning 20 years

GUESTS at the 2023 Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards went home with a lot of memories and these were not limited to the evening of suspense and of recognition for some of the standout performers in today's Greek maritime industries they had just enjoyed.

Everyone took home memories of the last two decades, too, thanks to their personal copy of *20 Years of the Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards*.

With the conclusion of the 2023 Awards, a total of more than 330 of the iconic Greek Shipping Awards trophies have been presented over the last two decades.

Over 270 pages, the large-format hardback book provides the definitive history of the event with vivid recollections of each year since its launch in 2004. There is also a guide to the history of each category, mentioning every last winner and sponsor.

A book to recount the history of the event was an obvious enough idea and embarking on the project was an easy decision. Making it a reality in time to distribute the book at the 20th anniversary event – not so much! But the handsome volume was ready on the night and has been eagerly read by members of the audience, hundreds of whom have been loyal attendees of the event over the years.

The book delves into some of the reasons for the success of the annual event and what has set it apart. Its analysis notes a number of elements, starting with the industry the event serves. "Greek shipping is the inspiration, the *raison d'être* and the very substance of the awards," it argues.

Another factor, it suggests, has been consistency and one reason for that is "incredibly, the same team has successfully conducted the event since inception." Beyond the core management team, there have been other "ever-presents" who have been involved

in every single edition of the event to date, and still others who have contributed to the vast majority of them.

The book offers readers the inside story of the origins of the Greek Shipping Awards and accounts for how the various team members came on board. Other special features include the story of the iconic marble, silvered brass and enamel award trophy. The trophy has been a constant since inception, although for many years it was hand-manufactured in Italy out of white Carrara marble and rare Azul Macaubas, a blue marble imported from Brazil, whereas now it is hand-crafted in Greece out of marble sourced from Thassos and Kavala.

A chapter on the judging of the Greek Shipping Awards says a thank-you to the total of 76 individuals who have participated in the judging panels over the last 20 years, naming them all (see also page 68). The book also puts the event in the context of 20 years of Greek shipping, and identifies five historic



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*Clockwise from top left: event co-hosts past and present signed copies of the book for charity; Olympian Nikos Kaklamanakis autographs copies; the audience on the night relived moments from the past as pages of the book were brought to life with archive video footage; a page featuring the 2005 appearance of the late Captain Nikolaos Frangos*

→ trends that it argues have represented the industry's most profound changes over the timespan.

These were: an influx of public capital and private equity; a much younger fleet than the fleet run by Greeks 20 years ago; the increased ascendancy of women in the industry; the rise of the Greek maritime services and manufacturing cluster; the emergence of Greece as a world leader in LNG shipping when back in 2004 there was not a single Greek-owned LNG carrier on the water.

For readers who may not wish to get too deep into the weeds of information, though, luckily the book is a visual feast of memorable moments and striking images captured by a team of photographers who have been recording the event for many years.

Having an archive of many 10s of thousands of photographs to choose from was both blessing and curse, as it was simply not

possible to use more than a small selection of pictures from each year. Undeniably, however, there are many striking photographs to be found among the pages. The intention was to create a stylish scrapbook of some of the defining moments, faces and images in the event's history.

Prior to Greek Shipping Awards night 2023, a book-signing event was held to create a number of special copies, mainly to help raise money for Argo, the children's charity supported annually by the event.

A very limited number of copies were autographed by Olympian Nikos Kaklamanakis, the event's 'Man of the Sea' in 2004, along with event co-hosts Andriana Paraskevopoulou and Nigel Lowry, and famed singer Fotini Darra who co-hosted the 2010 edition of the Awards. An auction of 10 copies signed by the four on the night raised an additional amount of more than €5,000 for Argo.

Regular copies of the book were handed out to guests as they left the Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel after the 2023 Awards show was concluded. But the book also played a role during the ceremony as a framing device for a video giving guests a nostalgic reminder of some of the highlights of the past.

On the event's numerous screens, attendees relived glimpses of guest personalities such as singers Helena Paparizou and Sakis Rouvas and shipping personalities such as the late Captain Vassilis Constantakopoulos and the late Captain Nikolaos Frangos in archive video footage spliced with the pages of 20 Years of the Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards.

*A limited number of copies of the book remain for those who did not attend the 2023 Awards. These are subject to availability and limited to readers based in Greece. Requests should be sent to [office@greekshippingawards.gr](mailto:office@greekshippingawards.gr), stating name, position, company, company address and contact phone number.*



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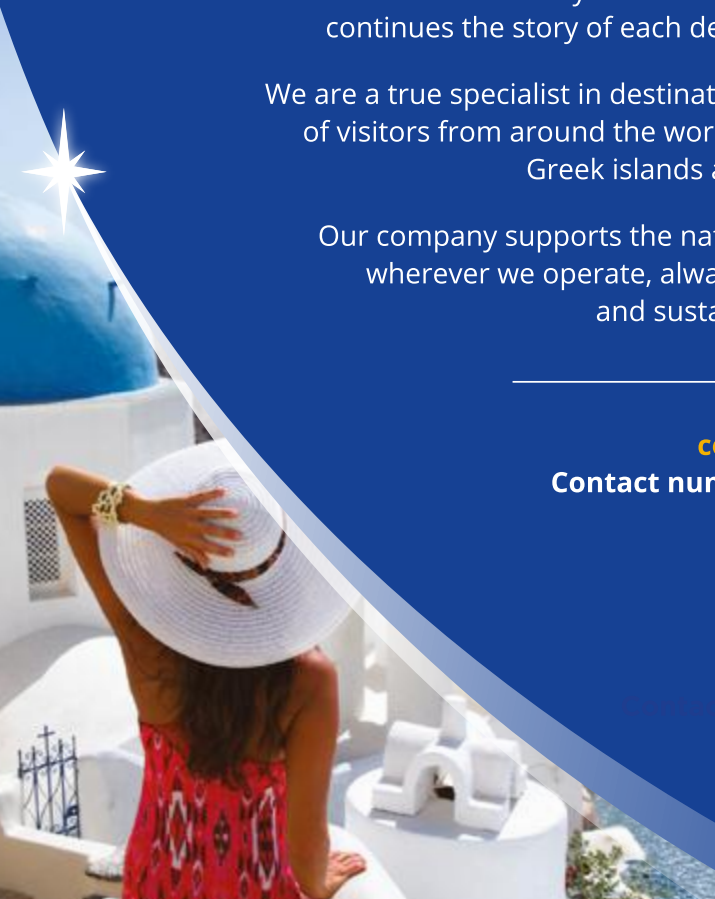
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L-R: Capt. Manolis Tsikalakis, Gelina Harlaftis, Nigel Lowry, Dr. George A. Gratsos, Dimitris Koukas, Haralambos Fafalios, George Xiradakis, Olga Stavropoulou, Panos Kourkountis, Charalampos Simantonis

## Tried-and-tested procedure relies on prominent industry experts

OUT of an abundance of caution, the 2023 judging panel once again met in a central Athens hotel using the Covid-era configuration of individual desks spaced out, each equipped with its own microphone, that has been the norm since 2020.

In most other respects, though, the approach to adjudication was a near-replica of the first panel in 2004 and of every other panel since: 10 individuals including prominent personalities already holding positions of trust in the Greek shipping industry and wider maritime cluster, engaged in lively and well-informed discussion of the candidates for each of the awards before freely and democratically determining the winners.

Like previous adjudication line-ups before it, the 2023 panel brought a wide range of shipowning, shipbroking, financial, commercial, technical, operational, environmental and other knowledge to the day-long deliberations.

Being the 20th anniversary of the Greek Shipping Awards, there was a deliberate reminder of the very first year with the inclusion of two members of the 2004 panel: George Gratsos, honorary president of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping, and eminent maritime historian Gelina Harlaftis.

Alongside them were stalwarts Haralambos Fafalios, chairman of the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee, and the representative of the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation, Captain

Manolis Tsikalakis, as well as two other jurors with prior experience of adjudicating the awards – Charalampos Simantonis, president of the Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners Association, and George Xiradakis, president of the Association of Banking and Financial Executives of Hellenic Shipping.

Joining them were three brand-new faces on the panel: Dimitris Koukas, president of the Greek Shipping-Shipbroking Companies Association, Panos Kourkountis, chairman of the Marine Technical Managers Association, and Olga Stavropoulou, director general of Helmepea.

It has been a policy since the inception of the awards to partly refresh the composition of the panel from year to year, both to vary the chemistry and expertise as well as to embrace as many individuals and industry organisations as possible. Over the first 20 years, a total of 76 individuals have participated in the annual adjudication process.

As is traditional, the panel decided 16 of the regular award categories, the exceptions being 'Newsmaker of the Year' and the 'Big Data' Award.

### Haralambos Fafalios

Chairman of the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee

### Dr. George A. Gratsos

Honorary President of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping

### Gelina Harlaftis

Professor of Maritime History, University of Crete & Director of IMS-FORTH

### Dimitris Koukas

President of the Greek Shipping-Shipbroking Companies Association

### Panos Kourkountis

Chairman of the Marine Technical Managers Association

### Nigel Lowry

Athens Correspondent, Lloyds List

### Charalampos Simantonis

President of the Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners Association

### Olga Stavropoulou

Director General of Helmepea

### Capt. Manolis Tsikalakis

General Secretary of the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation

### George Xiradakis

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



With the 2023 event, a total of 76 different individuals have now participated in the annual adjudication procedure. The Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards thanks them all.

## Leading personalities and experts from across Greece's maritime industries

George Alexandratos

Vasso Armogeni

Liona Bachas

Vasilis Bacolitsas

Danae Bezantakou

Dinos Caroussis

Capt. John Chalas

Vera Chalkidis

Takis Christofides

John Cotzias

John Coustas

Irene Daifas

Leonidas Demetriades-Eugenides

Nicos Efthymiou

Philip Embiricos

Dimitris Fafalios

Haralambos Fafalios

Antonios Faraklas

Nick Fistes

Markos Foros

George M. Foustanos

Costis J. Frangoulis

George Gourdomichalis

George A. Gratsos

Gelina Harlaftis

Angie Hartmann

Stavros Hatzigrigoris

John Kokarakis

Dimitris Koukas

Panos Kourkountis

Maria-Christina Ktistakis

Panos Laskaridis

Vassilis Logothetis

Mathew Los

Nigel Lowry

Natalia Margioli Komninou

Dimitrios Mattheou

Nicholas Meimarides

Rea Metropoulou

Efthimios E. Mitropoulos

Dimitris Mitsatsos

Anna-Maria Monogioudi

Marianna Moschou

Prof. Nikitas Nikitakos

John Pachoulis

Semiramis Paliou

Prof. Apostolos Papanikolaou

Nicky A. Pappadakis

George D. Pateras

Capt. Nick Pentheroudakis

Elpi Petraki

John Platsidakis

Spyros M. Polemis

Eleni Polychronopoulou

Jenny Pournara

Christiana Prekezes

Prof. Harilaos Psarftis

Vicky Roussos

Charalampos Simantonis

Olga Stavropoulou

Charlotte Stratos

Prof. Helen Thanopoulou

Prof. Ioannis Theotokas

Gregory Timagenis

Alexandros Tourkolias

Nikolas P. Tsakos

Andreas A. Tsavlis

Nicolas A. Tsavlis

Dean Tseretopoulos

Capt. Manolis Tsikalakis

Prof. John Tzoannos

Maria Vassara

Themistocles Vokos

Theodore Vokos

Nicholas Vouyoukas

George Xiradakis

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