

### WILLEM DE RUITER PRESENTS FIRST POSEIDON CHALLENGE AWARD TO IACS



Willem de Ruiter and IACS Chairman, Tor Svensen.

At the annual Intertanko event in Istanbul on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the Poseidon Challenge Award was presented to Tor Svensen, chairman of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). The award is part of the Poseidon Challenge campaign, which aims to improve the safety performance of the tanker sector, notably via voluntary initiatives from industry and associated bodies. The objectives defined by Intertanko for the Poseidon Challenge are ambitious (zero fatalities, zero pollution and zero detentions). EMSA Director Willem de Ruiter had the honour of presenting the award to IACS for its ground breaking work on the Common Structural Rules (CSR) for tankers. The new rules are considered crucial for ensuring the robustness of newly constructed tankers in the decades to come. Mr de Ruiter congratulated the award winner, the jury and the hosting organisation, and also reminded attendees of the complementarity between regulation and voluntary measures, a concept which was developed in the nineties within the Quality Shipping Campaign of transport Commissioner Neil Kinnock.

### LRIT SPECIFICATIONS FINALISED

On 22/23<sup>rd</sup> May, the EU LRIT (Long Range Identification and Tracking) expert group met for the second time in Lisbon to finalise the technical specifications for the EU LRIT system. It is expected that over 9,500 ships will have to report their position worldwide four times a day to the European LRIT Data Centre. Its main components will be tendered out separately: a system for collection of ship positions using communications satellites (ASP/CSP services), the development and operation of the European data centre and an invoicing and billing system. Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union is

foreseen by mid-June. The EU LRIT Data Centre will be part of the international LRIT system which is being developed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

### THETIS TO SUPPORT PSC

EMSA is developing a new database for Port State Control inspections. The Hybrid Electronic Targeting and Information System (THETIS) will support ship inspections in ports operating under the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (PMoU). The Agency has been tasked with the financing and development of the system and the technical work is being undertaken in close cooperation with experts from the Member States, the PMoU and the European Commission. EMSA has recently published a call for tenders for the technical development of the system. THETIS is crucial to the implementation of the new port state control regime. This will be introduced by a revised EU Directive which is expected to come into force in 2010 as part of the third maritime safety package. The main benefit of the New Inspection Regime is the replacement of the "25% inspection requirement per State" by a more sophisticated mechanism which will ensure that all ships visiting the EU will be regularly inspected (the great majority at least once per year). The timely implementation of THETIS is a pre-condition for the entry into force of the new regime.

### CALL FOR TENDERS FOR ATLANTIC OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE VESSELS

The Agency recently launched a call for tenders for oil pollution response vessels to cover the Bay of Biscay area (roughly the Atlantic coast from Porto to Brest). The purpose is to establish 3 year renewable stand-by vessel contracts with commercial ship owners and/or operators and/or spill response organisations. The related "Contract Notice," which was published on 20<sup>th</sup> May in the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), has the associated "Invitation to Apply" deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> June. This follows another recently published call for response vessels in the Black Sea and North Sea areas. All relevant information is available under "Procurement" on the EMSA website at:

<http://www.emsa.europa.eu/end185d014d013d002.html>

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