



IRClass positions itself for the future

Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) reports that it has seen a consistent growth in its classed fleet for the last three years, which it says is indicative of its 'resilience amidst the not-so-positive market conditions.'

'The shipping industry has been depressed for an extended period but recently there are some indications of an upturn,' says Mr Suresh Sinha, md of (IRClass).

For IRClass, 2018 will be a year focused on enhancing its classed fleet, increasing its global footprint, gaining more flag recognitions and further strengthening its image as the 'class of choice', he continues.

IRClass kick-started the year with a contract win to class an 87mtr well stimulation vessel for Vision Project which is under construction, for expected delivery around November 2020. The class society is also at an advanced stage to secure some newbuilding projects in China shortly, he informs.

'These new businesses demonstrate the forays that IRClass is making into the newbuilding segment which has been on the ebb for a while,' says Sinha.

Mindful that two major factors driving change in the maritime industry are technological advances and new regulatory requirements, IRClass has developed a range of new services as follows:



Suresh Sinha, md IRClass

The rise of cyber-attacks on information and operational technology systems within the maritime industry has prompted IRClass to develop cyber safety guidelines based on IMO, US Department

of Commerce - National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and relevant ISO, IEC standards.

'The implementation of these guidelines will help identify the cyber risk issues from as early as the design stage of the vessel, and IRClass as a classification society plays a significant role in helping clients in addressing their cyber risks towards ensuring a cyber safe ship,' comments Singa.

As the shipping industry embraces technology and digitalisation to optimise business operations and promote efficiency, IRClass has also started to issue e-certificates. The class society says this will significantly reduce possibilities of fraudulent certificates, reduce the administrative burden of keeping hard copies and reduce the risk of loss/damage of certificate.

In addition, IRClass is fully geared up to render services for compliance with Regulations on measurement and verification of CO₂ emissions from ships i.e.

EU MRV and IMO DCS services. It has prepared guidelines and electronic tools to enable owners to prepare monitoring plans and SEEMPs (Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plans) and has developed procedures for issuance of documents and statements of compliance.

IRClass is also stepping up efforts to gain RO (Recognised Organisation) recognition from various flag states in Europe as well as Middle East. With a regional office in Singapore, it aims to gain RO status from Singapore as well as from key ASEAN countries like Indonesia and Philippines.

'With a cautiously optimistic outlook for 2018, digitalisation and cyber security, LNG-fuelled vessels, coastal and inland shipping, offshore and defence are the key areas of focus for IRClass this year,' concludes the md. ●

KR moves with the times

IACS member classification society Korean Register (KR) has launched a number of new services leveraging on digitalization and advances in technology.

Inspection services using aerial drones and remotely operated vessels underwater have been introduced, responding to the industry-wide trend to use more unmanned technology.

'This is just the latest development in KR's continuous efforts to identify and develop new practical ways to meet our clients' needs, and to enhance their businesses prosperity,' commented Mr Lee Jeong-kie, chairman and ceo of KR.

The class society has also launched KR e-fleet v2, the second edition of its one-stop fleet management programme. New features include a fully searchable database thanks to digitisation of paper records, and a new management function called Survey Planner to manage fleetwide surveys. The service is free of charge to owners of the 3,032 vessels of 69m gt classed with KR.

Finally, KR announced in late February that it had signed an agreement to provide specialist cyber security technical services to Songa Shipmanagement's fleet of 32 ships.