

ASPECTS

HOUSE JOURNAL OF THE ASP SHIPS GROUP

ISSUE: **April 2025**





From the desk of
David Borcoski
Group Managing
Director

It has been a very busy and interesting year since our last journal as outlined in this latest bumper edition.

The management restructure with the CEO appointments together with a warm welcome to new members of the ASP family both ashore and at sea, underlines that we are staying on track for long-term growth.

Expansion of the Singapore operations was realised through the takeover of four new-build MR tankers as well as two bulk carriers.

Our operations in Mumbai also saw expansion with the addition of two tugs under full technical management.

We were also extremely excited to open our new office in Hamburg, Germany, to strengthen our Global presence in the industry.

The Crew Management sector continues to grow with both existing & new partnerships, and expanding horizons with, for example, the Venezuelan cadet program. Plus congratulations to our Manila team for receiving the Best Crew Solutions Provider.

We opened a new Training Centre in Mumbai to boost our existing training capabilities.

In the travel sector, we have re-opened in Mumbai after a 10 year hiatus.

As always, please keep providing us with your stories, experiences and don't forget the photo competition.

Enjoy the read!

ASPECTS

House Journal of the ASP Ships Group

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Cover Image:

New AI Seer MR tanker
Betelgeuse

ASP Ships Group expands with Launch of ASP SHIPS GERMANY

ASP Ships Group is excited to announce the establishment of ASP Ships Germany, further strengthening its global presence in the maritime industry. Leading this expansion is Bjoern Borbe, who has been appointed Managing Director of ASP Ships Germany.

With an extensive 18-year career in the maritime sector—including 12 years in senior crew management roles—Mr. Borbe brings a wealth of experience to his new position.

ASP Ships Germany will be headquartered at the iconic Chilehaus in Hamburg, a world-heritage Chilehaus. This strategic expansion allows ASP Ships Group to enhance its service offerings to the German maritime sector, including crew management, full ship management, and marine and technical services.



ASP Ships Germany MD Bjoern Borbe (left), Mr. David Borcoski, MD of ASP Ships Group (right).

Expressing his enthusiasm, Mr. Borbe stated, **"I am delighted to join ASP Ships Group at this exciting time. Germany is a pivotal hub within the global maritime industry, and I look forward to collaborating with both existing and potential clients to drive further growth and innovation."**

David Borcoski, MD of ASP Ships Group, also shared his thoughts on the expansion: **"We are pleased to welcome Bjoern Borbe as Managing Director of ASP Ships Germany. Establishing a dedicated presence in Germany enables us to better support our customers in the region while offering new clients access to the extensive expertise and benefits of our well-established operations in Asia, Australia, and New Zealand."**

With this expansion, ASP Ships Group continues to reinforce its commitment to providing world-class maritime solutions tailored to the evolving needs of the global shipping industry.

Oldendorff Carriers & ASP Ships Group 5TH ANNIVERSARY

ASP Crew Management Services is proud to mark the 5th anniversary of our successful partnership with Oldendorff Carriers GmbH & Co. KG.

A recognition plaque was presented to Armin Zilske, Director Crewing of Oldendorff Carriers, by David Borcoski, ASP Ships Group Managing Director, during the Mission to Seafarers Awards dinner on 11th October 2024.

Oldendorff Carriers is a family owned shipping company with headquarters in Lübeck, Germany. Since its establishment in 1921, Oldendorff Carriers has grown into one of the world's leading dry bulk owners and operators.

From left to right: Vitalii Chaika – CEP, ASP Crew Management; Armin Zilske – Oldendorff Carriers Director Crewing; David Borcoski – ASP Ships Group Managing Director; and Adrian Whatley – ASP Ships Group Commercial Director.



ASP AUSTRALIA CEO Mark Patman retires

After 40 years with the ASP Ships Group and predecessors, our Australian CEO Mark Patman decided to enter into retirement, effective 13th December 2024.

Mark first commenced in shipping with the Australian National Line (ANL) as a Supply Officer. In 1991, when ANL and Associated Steamships created the joint venture of ASP Ship Management, Mark transferred across to the newly formed ASP. Mark held a number of shore-based positions including Purchasing & Supply Manager, Quality Assurance Manager and Business Development Manager.

In 2002, Mark was part of the team that acquired the Gladstone based bunkering business from BHP, which was renamed as International Bunker Supplies (IBS). Mark moved across to IBS as the CEO and relocated to Gladstone for 2.5 years to bed down the business. In 2005 Mark moved back to Melbourne and continued in the role as CEO of IBS. Mark was also instrumental in ASP's acquisition of Universal Bunkering Pty Ltd.

In 2017, the IBS business was sold to BP Marine and Mark remained with ASP in the role of Commercial Development Director for Australasia. In 2023, Mark took on the new role as CEO of ASP's five (5) Australian businesses. During his time as CEO, Mark worked tirelessly to also expand the Coastal Shipping business in NZ, which ASP acquired in 2020.

At the ASP Christmas function in late November, ASP Group Managing Director David Borcoski made a presentation to Mark and thanked him for his dedication to ASP over the 40 years and strong commitment to all of the ASP businesses and his efforts in every role he has held.

Mark in reply thanked David for his kind words and reflected on his time at ASP with fondness. He also thanked all those who gave

him many opportunities throughout his career including Adrian Whatley, ASP Board members and ASP Executives, all staff (shore based and seagoing), clients and all industry stakeholders for their support.

Mark also thanked his wife Kayleen and their family for their sacrifices and all that they did to support over his career and will now enjoy some travel, and we know that we will continue to see Mark around the corridors of Majella at times.

We wish Mark and Kayleen all the best.



ASP Group Managing Director David Borcoski (left), makes a presentation to retiring Australian CEO Mark Patman (right).

Strengthening ASP Ships Group leadership with KEY CEO APPOINTMENTS

At ASP Ships Group, we recognize that strong leadership is the foundation of long-term success. As our business continues to grow, evolve, and position itself for the future, we are pleased to share the formal appointments of key Operating Company CEOs, which took place in December 2024. These leaders will guide their respective divisions toward sustained excellence and long-term growth.

These appointments mark a strategic step forward in strengthening ASP's global presence across Ship Management, Crew Management, Marine & Technical Services, and Mariner Travel. Together with Christian Riis, CEO – ASP Asia, who joined the group in July 2024, these four newly appointed leaders will drive operational growth, client partnerships, and service innovation, ensuring that ASP remains at the forefront of modern ship management.

Each of these CEOs brings deep industry expertise, leadership experience, and a commitment to operational excellence. Their leadership will enhance ASP's ability to meet the evolving needs of shipowners worldwide, while fostering collaboration and innovation across the group.

MEET THE NEW ASP SHIPS GROUP CEOs

CEO – ASP Australia & New Zealand: **Tim Asome**



Tim's seagoing career started in Australia and after completing a Cadetship worked in the international arena with BP Shipping on LNG, Crude and Product tankers. Tim came ashore and became a Project Manager with Sembawang Shipyard in Singapore before starting as a Ship Manager with ASP Ship Management (Australia) and later promoted to General Manager. Tim Asome returns to ASP after three years with RightShip as a Vetting Superintendent, bringing with him deep industry knowledge and technical expertise and combined with his strong understanding of ASP's ship management operations, Tim is well-positioned to lead our Technical Ship Management businesses in Australia and New Zealand.

With oversight of ASP offices in Melbourne, Perth, Gladstone, and Christchurch (NZ), Tim's focus will be on long-term growth and operational excellence.

CEO – ASP Crew Management: **Vitalii Chaika**



With 19 years at ASP, Vitalii Chaika is widely recognized in the global crewing industry. Having previously served as ASP's Group Crewing Director, he has been instrumental in managing ASP's global crewing and training operations across locations such as Singapore, Mumbai, Manila, Dhaka, Yangon, Odessa, Rijeka, and now Hamburg. In addition to his new responsibilities, Vitalii represents ASP as the IMEC Ukraine Representative Director, reinforcing the company's global industry presence. He also supports seafarers' welfare as a volunteer for the Mission to Seafarers, where he currently serves as Global Ambassador. As CEO, Vitalii will oversee ASP's worldwide crewing and training operations, including expanding services in Australia and New Zealand.

Vitalii graduated from Odesa National Maritime University, specializing in the Management of Organizations. He holds an additional degree in Accounting and Auditing, as well as a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Steinbeis University Berlin. In 2024, he earned a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from Kairos University in the USA.

CEO – ASP Marine & Technical Services: **Andrew MacLeod**



Andrew MacLeod steps into the CEO role after successfully leading ASP Marine & Technical Services as General Manager. Andrew is the proud holder of an MBA in Maritime Operations and a UK Class 1 CoC Chief Engineer's Unlimited Ticket.

With a strong seafaring background and ship management experience as Senior Fleet Superintendent with Maersk, his expertise with marine and technical support services, dry-docking, new-building projects and vessel condition assessments makes him an ideal fit to lead the expansion of this vital division.

His role will focus on expanding ASP's technical services for both external clients and in-house operations, as well as overseeing Group Procurement.

A Leadership Team Built for the Future

This strengthened leadership structure is designed to position ASP Ships Group for long-term success, ensuring that each operating company has the strategic focus and expertise needed to meet evolving client needs and industry demands.

Each of these leaders brings a wealth of experience, deep industry insight, and a strong commitment to ASP's values. We look forward to seeing them drive growth, innovation, and excellence across our global operations.

CEO – Mariner Travel:
Aaron Watts

For the past 14 years, Aaron Watts has played a key role in expanding and diversifying ASP's Mariner Travel business, successfully growing it into a Corporate, Leisure and Marine Travel provider. Based in Melbourne, Aaron has over 20 years' experience in the travel sector originally joining Mariner from global Corporate Travel Management company Carlson Wagonlit where he held positions in London and Melbourne and maintains the key to the ongoing success of the business is building and maintaining client relationships and providing high service levels in at highly competitive market. Aaron will continue to oversee ASP's global travel operations in Melbourne, Singapore, Mumbai, and Odessa, while also identifying potential new clients and acquisitions that align with Mariner Travel's growth strategy.

CEO – ASP Asia:
Christian Riis

Christian Riis joined ASP in July 2024, bringing over 20 years of maritime experience. Christian is originally from Denmark, is a Master Mariner and holds an Executive MBA in Shipping & Logistics. Christian has been working for a number of Scandinavian shipowners, later Berge Bulk in Singapore before serving as Director at Rio Tinto, where he led Marine Safety & Welfare Strategy. With a strong background in ship management, commercial operations, and risk management, Christian is well-positioned to drive ASP's growth and operational excellence across Asia strengthening ASP's international client partnerships.

Please join us in congratulating Tim, Vitalii, Andrew, Aaron and Christian on their new roles. Let's continue working together to make ASP an industry leader in ship management and maritime services worldwide.

German Shipowners Association VISIT

On 28th January 2025, Mr. David Borcoski, ASP Ships Group Managing Director, visited the offices of the German Shipowners Association (VDR), in his capacity as President of the New Zealand Shipping Federation and Chairman of Maritime Industry Australia Ltd. David was welcomed by Dr. Kröger, VDR CEO, for an open exchange on various maritime topics including the development of the German merchant fleet, international maritime policies and regulations, decarbonisation and future fuels and many more.

Given the opportunity, David provided Dr. Kröger with an update on the current activities of the ASP Ships Group, including the establishment of ASP Ships Germany, located at the famous Chilehaus in Hamburg, all being part of the ASP Ship Group's strategy to expand the range of maritime services available for German and European ship owners and operators.

CEO Dr. Martin Kröger (left), Mr. David Borcoski, MD of ASP Ships Group (right).



RTM Seminar

On 18th and 19th November 2024 ASP held the third in the series of Sea Staff training seminars for the year in Melbourne. With 21 sea staff, including 4 cadets, and representatives from ASP, Rio Tinto Marine and Industry Representatives, there was a proactive engagement, exchange of ideas and learning opportunities.

A packed agenda of topics included vessel energy performance, workplace culture, health and wellbeing, behavioural based safety, cultural awareness, the Rightship program and safety moment sharing. It was a busy program however everyone enjoyed a relaxing dinner at the end of day 1, over which meaningful discussions continued. Organisers are already busy scheduling the next series in 2025.

ASP successfully takes over 4 NEW-BUILD MR TANKERS



After months of alignment and constructive dialogue, ASP Ship Management Singapore proudly took over the management of four Medium Range (MR) tankers from Al Seer Marine in 2024. The *Betelgeuse*, *Bellatrix*, *Mintaka*, and *Saiph*, delivered from K Shipbuilding, South Korea, between August and November 2024, mark another significant milestone for ASP's fleet expansion.

These state-of-the-art vessels are Cayman Islands flagged and LR Classed are fitted with scrubbers and are LNG-ready, underscoring ASP's commitment to managing future-ready, sustainable fleets.

Seamless Collaboration & Successful Transition

The seamless transition of these four vessels was a testament to exceptional teamwork and coordination across ASP's shore-based and seafaring teams.

A special mention goes to Adrian Whatley, who led the discussions with Al Seer Marine on behalf of ASP, ensuring a strong foundation for the expansion of our partnership with Al Seer Marine.

Thanks to close collaboration between ASP's crew management teams, technical teams, and our dedicated seafarers, all four vessels have been performing well since delivery.

Crew Management Excellence

A huge thank you to Capt Vaibhav Rupade and the crew management teams in Singapore and India for their outstanding efforts in managing the logistics and crew movements seamlessly. Their professionalism and dedication played a vital role in ensuring that each vessel was manned with highly competent officers and crew members from day one.

Technical & Marine Operations

Special recognition goes to:

- Capt Denzil D'Souza (GM ASP SM), Ankush Khanna (Fleet Manager), and Capt Sumit Bhatia (Marine Manager), for leading the technical and operational readiness of the vessels
- Ship Managers Asit Kumar Pradhan & Vamsi Potu, and Marine Superintendent Capt Subhasis Pandey, who ensured the takeover process went smoothly
- Alvin Yap (Vessel IT Manager), Ms Nilam Sarie (Marine Standards Manager), Ms Nurain Swani (Marine Standards Assistant) and Mr Peter Tan (Purchaser) for their tireless efforts in ensuring the readiness and smooth take over the vessels.

Training & On-board Readiness

Ensuring a smooth start for the crew was a top priority. Group Training Manager Capt Ivor D'Mello and Training Manager Capt Sameer Baganikar played a crucial role in arranging sea staff seminars, conducting pre-joining on-board training. Their efforts helped create a safe, competent, and well-prepared crew environment from the outset.

Acknowledging Our Seafarers

While the support from shore-based teams was instrumental, the true success of this transition rests with our dedicated seafarers. A heartfelt thank you to our loyal Captains, Chief Engineers, Officers, Engineers, and Crew members, who have ensured that everything works in practice after departure. Their commitment, expertise, and teamwork have been crucial to ensuring a smooth takeover.

Captains & Chief Engineers for Each Vessel:

- **Betelgeuse** (Delivered 14 August 2024)
 - Master: Capt Sukhjeet Singh Dhaliwal
 - Chief Engineer: Isac Abranches
- **Bellatrix** (Delivered 31 August 2024)
 - Master: Capt Arvinder Singh Wasu
 - Chief Engineer: Sanjay Mahalley
- **Mintaka** (Delivered 30 October 2024)
 - Master: Capt Sunil Bose
 - Chief Engineer: Nitin Shilkar
- **Saiph** (Delivered 11 November 2024)
 - Master: Capt Prahlad Rao
 - Chief Engineer: Sanjay Mahalley

With these four tankers now fully integrated into the ASP fleet, we look forward to delivering high-quality ship management services and strengthening our partnership with Al Seer Marine for years to come.



ASP Ship Management Singapore

FLEET EXPANSION

ASP Ship Management Singapore has strengthened its managed fleet with the addition of two bulk carriers, *Diamond Star II* and *Arwen Gemini*, under full technical management. This expansion underscores ASP's commitment to operational excellence and efficiency in global ship management.

Diamond Star II

On October 19, 2024, ASP Shipmanagement assumed full technical, management of the *Diamond Star II* (IMO No. 9449273), a Supramax bulk carrier registered in Panama. The vessel was taken over at Singapore anchorage, marking a significant milestone in ASP's growing portfolio.

To ensure a seamless transition, all crew members attended a one-day seminar at ASP's Singapore office on October 17, 2024. The takeover team included Capt Suyash Panse as Master and Mr. Ratan Sharma as Chief Engineer with Ship Manager Shravan Jha and Marine Superintendent Capt Anant Sapra overseeing the vessel's operations.

Arwen Gemini

On January 29, 2025, ASP Shipmanagement took over the management of the *Arwen Gemini* (IMO No. 9594925), a Kamsarmax bulk carrier registered in Singapore. The handover took place at Cape Town anchorage, further strengthening ASP's global presence in ship management.

Prior to the takeover, the crew participated in a pre-handover seminar on January 28, 2025, ensuring a smooth transition. The *Arwen Gemini* is now under the command of Capt Ruwan Maya Kaduwage with Mr V. Thiruvendra Kumar as Chief Engineer. Asit Pradhan as the Ship Manager and Marine Superintendent Capt Anant Sapra are overseeing its management.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the owners of *Diamond Star II* and *Arwen Gemini* for their trust in ASP. The addition of these vessels highlights our dedication to delivering operational excellence in the maritime industry. By ensuring seamless crew transitions and robust management oversight, ASP continues to strengthen its reputation as a leader in global ship management.



Diamond Star II

TYPE:	Bulk Carrier	DWT:	57,273	BEAM:	32m
BUILT:	2011	FLAG:	Panama	DRGHT:	10.9m
GT:	33,205	LENGTH:	190m		



Arwen Gemini

TYPE:	Bulk Carrier	DWT:	81,882	BEAM:	32.26m
BUILT:	2013	FLAG:	Singapore	DRGHT:	14.5m
GT:	44,647	LENGTH:	229m		

ASP Crew Management STRENGTHENS TIES with Langh Ship



Langh Ship

Reported in *ASPECTS* in 2024, *MS Lovisa* was the first vessel in the series of three 7800 dwt multi-purpose new-buildings for Langh Ship.



As the maritime industry continues to evolve, strategic partnerships are essential for enhancing operational efficiency and service delivery. In a significant move that highlights their commitment to collaboration, Langh Ship has entrusted ASP Crew Management with an expanded fleet.

Building on their existing relationship, which includes the management of five crew managed vessels, Langh Ship solidified this alliance by entrusting ASP Philippines with the crew management of the vessel *MS Greta* on December 18, 2024. This marks the beginning of a series of additional vessel entrustments throughout 2024-2025, including the transfer of *MS Edith* on April 30, 2024, and *MS Christina* on May 30, 2024. These actions reflect the growing trust Langh Ship has in ASP.

This gradual approach allows ASP Crew Management to seamlessly integrate these vessels into its management framework, ensuring a smooth transition and continued operational excellence.

In addition to these entrustments, Langh Ships is expanding its fleet with newly constructed vessels, further enhancing ASP Philippines crew management capabilities. The new built vessel *MS Lovisa* was taken over on October 23, 2023, followed by *MS Olivia* on January 17, 2024, and *MS Sofia*, which joined the fleet on March 30, 2024.

MS Lovisa was the first vessel in the series of three 7800 dwt multipurpose new-buildings for Langh Ship. *Lovisa* is equipped with Wärtsilä dual fuel engine able to burn in addition to traditional MGO and LNG also biodiesel and biogas.

Looking ahead, the partnership between Langh Ships and ASP is set to strengthen even further. Notably, *MS Ingrid* has been taken over by ASP on March 11, 2025.

This partnership is characterized by a shared vision of operational excellence, sustainability, and innovation within the maritime industry. As they collaborate to manage a growing fleet, both organizations are committed to upholding the highest standards of safety, efficiency, and environmental stewardship.

With a robust fleet expansion plan and a focus on innovative vessel management, both companies are well-equipped to navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, ensuring a prosperous future for their operations and the industry as a whole. ASP Group is profoundly grateful to Langh Ships for their continued trust and support as we look forward to taking over more vessels in the future.

As of today, Langh Ship offers trustworthy and efficient sea transportation service. The modern fleet of Langh Ship is capable of operating in challenging Northern conditions transporting steel, bulk and container goods. All Langh vessels are equipped with hybrid scrubbers. Langh Ship is proud of the fact that also Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union has trusted the innovative technology and co-financed part of the scrubber project "Back from Black".



LEFT: From the naming ceremony of 1200 TEU new-building *Ingrid* with young Miss Ingrid as the godmother of the ship.

BELOW: Vitalii Chaika – CEO of ASP Crew Management, visited the vessel *Ingrid* en route to Singapore, together with Laura Langh-Lagerlöf – Managing Director & Owner of Langh Ship and Capt Pavlo Dovbnya.



STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

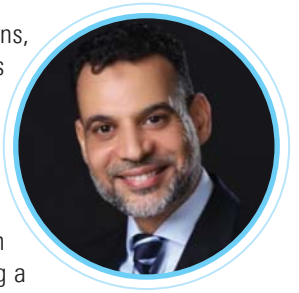
fuel Black Marlin's global shipping efficiency

Black Marlin, a subsidiary of Gulf Navigation, is advancing global shipping standards through strategic partnerships designed to enhance operational efficiency and reliability across key trade routes.

In February 2025, Black Marlin entered into a partnership with ASP Crew Management Services, a member of ASP Ships Group, designating it as the primary supplier of maritime personnel. This collaboration establishes a trusted framework for securing consistent supply of highly skilled crew members to support Black Marlin's expanding fleet. The partnership leverages ASP's extensive manning offices strategic locations across Asia, including the Philippines, India, Myanmar, and Indonesia.

To further optimize its regional operations, Gulf Navigation appointed ASP Singapore as its husbandry agent. This strategic move enhances port services in Singapore, ensuring regulatory compliance, cost control, and seamless vessel turnarounds.

These alliances underscore Gulf Navigation and Black Marlin's commitment to building a high-performing, globally competitive shipping network, grounded in operational excellence, superior service, and enduring partnership.



(Pictured) Ali Abouda – Group Chief Financial Officer

TB MARINE GERMANY is back

We are pleased to announce the signing of a Service Level Agreement with our long-standing partner, TB Marine, Hamburg, for their vessels under the Singapore Flag. The primary objective of this agreement is to manage accounts with the Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA), ensuring vessels' registration and ongoing regulatory compliance on behalf of the ship manager.



Our partnership with TB Marine began in 2007 with a crew management agreement for their first tanker under management. Since then, TB Marine has grown into a large and diverse fleet operator, consistently achieving high KPI rankings and managing a modern fleet that includes IMO II/III classified chemical and oil tankers, LNG carriers, and container vessels. All vessels are built and maintained to the highest standards of quality and reliability.

Daniel Thaeter – Director HSQE (pictured left with Igor Popovs and Vitalii Chaika) admitted: **"We truly appreciate our ongoing cooperation with ASP. At TB Marine, we value strong partnerships that focus on quality service and the satisfaction of our clients. Working together, and especially to meet the expectations of the Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA), we aim to uphold the highest standards and continue delivering reliable support to our fleet and partners alike."**



Toyofuji Shipping Europe ANNIVERSARY

On 21st November 2024, ToyoFuji Europe held an anniversary gathering in Brussels celebrating 20 years of operations in Europe. ASP UK were invited to attend. Representatives from ToyoFuji Europe, Toyofuji Japan, the port of Zeebrugge and from the agencies in Zeebrugge and Grimsby attended.

The celebration was addressed by senior personnel from Toyofuji Japan and the port of Zeebrugge. Toyofuji Europe showed a video presentation of the Toyota shipping division, focusing on the safe operation of their vessels. The head of Toyofuji Japan expressed his appreciation of the good co-operation from all parties which contributes to the success of ToyoFuji Europe.

The presentations were followed by a lunch at the medieval Castle Ter Ham outside of Brussels which was enjoyed by all.



UK Office General Manager, Bob Urwin, representing ASP at the lunch.

Seminars for Seafarers in collaboration with AL SEER MARINE



ASP Ship Management, Singapore conducted two extremely interactive seminars for seafarers in Mumbai in 2024. These events were organized as part of the comprehensive takeover process for four new MR Oil/Chemical Tankers from Al Seer Marine, a global maritime organization headquartered in Abu Dhabi.

The first seminar took place at The Courtyard Marriott, Mumbai, on 11th June 2024. This event marked a key milestone in the takeover of the first two new MR Oil/Chemical Tankers from Al Seer Marine.

The second seminar was held at The Aurika, Mumbai, on 3rd October 2024, as part of the takeover of the third and fourth MR Oil/Chemical Tankers from Al Seer Marine.

Both Seminars were attended by Capt Kaushik Neogy, the Senior Commercial Manager of Al Seer Marine and several senior Management staff from ASP Ship Management including from Singapore, Capt Denzil D'Souza – GM ASP Ship Management, Ankush Khanna – Fleet Manager and Capt Vaibhav Rupade – Crewing Head of Operations. From ASP Ship Management India, Mr. Sanjay Kelkar – MD and Capt Ivor D'Mello Group Training Manager. The presence of Senior Management from both organizations highlighted the importance of this initiative in strengthening ties between stakeholders and as a platform for building stronger interpersonal relationships among participants.

The seminar featured presentations from both internal management and external experts, focusing on the technical, safety, and operational requirements specific to the new vessels. External speakers attending the events included, Capt Shiv Halbe – CEO MASSA, Capt Sachin Matwankar – Head Marine Risk, Reliance Industries, Aniruddha Desai – Senior Executive, North Standard P&I, Capt Arnt Stensen – Technical Manager, Assuranceforeningen Skuld (P & I) and others.

The seminars in Mumbai exemplified ASP Ships Group's proactive approach to crew training and vessel integration, ensuring seamless takeovers and high standards of safety and performance. These initiatives reflect ASP's dedication to empowering seafarers with the knowledge, skills, and support necessary for success in the modern maritime industry.



MtS AWARDS 2024

ASP Ships Group continue with their long support of the Mission to Seafarers and were silver sponsors of the annual Seafarers Awards Dinner held in Singapore in October 2024.

A gathering of Marine sector representatives from Asia came together to honour seafarers' hard work and commitment, and the contributions made to their well-being by crew, shore staff and shipping companies.

The award for most significant contribution to crew welfare, shoreside contribution to seafarers' welfare, cadet award and rescue award were among the recognitions during the evening.

The Mission's newly appointed secretary general, the Venerable Dr Peter Rouch, expressed how privileged he was to be taking the role from Canon Andrew Wright, and said: **"As I learn more about our remarkable work, delivered unconditionally by our frontline staff and volunteers, I hear of its value to seafarers and the complex industry in which we serve. So, wherever your seafarers are, know that we are doing our best."**

He added that when it comes to keeping up with our fast-paced and modern world, the Mission is also on the right track by being accessible to seafarers digitally through the apps *Happy at Sea* and *Ship Visitor*.

"For now, the Mission is in a good place, implementing the plans we already have, growing our reach, and developing our services to meet the needs of seafarers in a changing world,"

Our Managing Director, David Borcoski, was a VIP guest of Rio Tinto Marine and guests on the ASP table headed by our Group Commercial Director, Adrian Whatley, included Manish Jain, COO Womar Logistics Pte Ltd, Mark Parrotte, GM Asia and Group Head of Crewing at RockTree and Santosh Kumar, General Manager Marine Operations.

Capt Rob Walker, immediate past Chairman of the Mission to Seafarers Singapore, commented: **"The support for the Mission's work in caring for seafarers is strongly emphasised through events like this. It is the 7th consecutive year and we see no let-up in enthusiasm to share in the appreciation and recognition of those individuals and groups who make every effort to improve seafarer welfare worldwide."**



The Awards

(INSET) The Mission's newly appointed Secretary General, the Venerable Dr Peter Rouch.



David Borcoski, MD, (2nd from left standing) as VIP guest of Rio Tinto.



ASP Group shot, L-R, Vitalii Chaika, Rob Walker, David Borcoski, Nilam Sari, Andrew MacLeod, Denzil D'Souza and Christian Riis.



The ASP table, anticlockwise from right, Christian Riis, guest Santosh Kumar – Rio Tinto, Andrew MacLeod, Vitalii Chaika, guest Mark Parrotte – Rocktree, Adrian Whatley, guest Manish Jain – Womar, Denzil D'Souza and Nilam Sari.

VISIT: Owner's Team ABO Shoten & ASP India

After a long gap of approximately eight years, the owners of ABO Shoten announced their visit to the ASP India office on the 28th and 29th of November 2024. Seizing this opportunity, the ASP team decided to organize a seminar for the bulk carrier fleet at their newly opened training facility.

Mr. Christian Riis, who had recently assumed the role of CEO, Asia, ASP Group, also travelled to India to engage in in-depth discussions with the owners. The visit was marked by a day-long seminar on the second day, commencing at 08:30 hours. The event featured interactive sessions on various topics, with enthusiastic participation from attendees. Despite the challenge of adhering to the presentation schedule, the seminar was a resounding success.

The event gained significant traction within the ASP dry bulk group, going viral among seafarers. The owners had the opportunity to witness first-hand the camaraderie shared between the seafarers and the shore team, which they greatly appreciated.

A highlight of the visit was the owners' announcement of awarding two newly built handy-size bulk carriers to ASP India for full management in 2025. This milestone further solidifies the strong and collaborative relationship between ABO Shoten and ASP India, paving the way for continued growth and excellence in fleet management.



ABO SHOTEN, LTD.

Owners interacting with the seafarers.



A group photo to conclude the seminar.

VISIT: ABO Shoten Office at Onomichi, Japan

On 31st July 2024, Sanjay Kelkar, Managing Director of ASP SM India, and Capt Manish Dixit, DPA, paid a visit to the ABO Shoten office in Onomichi, Japan. This long-overdue in-person meeting with the owner's team provided an invaluable opportunity to strengthen relations and align managerial services with the owner's expectations.

During the meeting (*pictured left*), discussions centred around key areas of concern for the owners, as well as their future plans involving ASP. The face-to-face interaction facilitated a deeper understanding of operational expectations, enabling ASP SM India to fine-tune its services to better meet the owner's requirements.

The visit underscored ASP SM India's commitment to fostering strong partnerships and enhancing service quality. Strengthening communication and stakeholder collaboration remains a cornerstone of ASP SM India's approach, ensuring seamless operations and mutual growth.



From left to right: Sanjay Kelkar – ASP, Mr. Ren Wada – (CEO, ABO Shoten Ltd.), Capt Manish Dixit – ASP, Ms Teruyo Morikazu – (ASL, Asst. GM SM), Ms Hiromi Nakahara – (ASL, GM, Ship Management).

HAMPERS: Sponsored by ABO Shoten

ABO Shoten generously sponsored New Year gift hampers for seafarers who sailed on their ships managed by ASP India. In recognition of their dedicated service, ABO Shoten instructed the ASP team to dispatch these gift hampers directly to each seafarer's residence, accompanied by a heartfelt note appreciating their invaluable contributions on-board ASL ships.

In addition to the gift hampers, ABO Shoten also sponsored a New Year celebration allowance to be utilized on their vessels managed by ASP India. This thoughtful gesture was aimed at fostering a joyful and festive atmosphere on-board, ensuring that the crew could celebrate the occasion despite being away from their families. Such initiatives highlight ABO Shoten's commitment to the well-being and morale of their seafarers, reinforcing a culture of appreciation and support within their fleet.



Long international voyages: SMALL CRAFTS

One of ASP India's oldest and most valued clients, the Chowgule Group, recently entrusted ASP with the responsibility of taking possession of two tugs in South Korea on their behalf. This partnership, spanning over 25 years, exemplifies the trust and confidence between the two entities. In addition to acquiring the tugs, ASP India was also tasked with manning them with a competent crew and ensuring their safe maiden voyages from Incheon, South Korea, to Jaigad port on the west coast of India.

SI Bharat Shriram, representing the owners, efficiently handled the necessary formalities for the transfer of possession and preparation for the voyage. The tugs were readied for their long-haul journeys in September and November 2024. However, the planned voyages presented significant challenges, particularly due to the South China Sea being prone to typhoons during this period.

With meticulous voyage planning and unwavering support from the shore team, both tugs completed their maiden voyages one after the other under the experienced command of Capt Bhatti.

Careful monitoring and strategic navigation played a crucial role in overcoming adverse weather conditions and ensuring the safety of the crew and vessels throughout the journey.

ASP India's in-house affiliates provided invaluable support for these voyages. Universal Bunkering, an internal bunker-supplying company, was engaged in arranging bunkers en route at identified ports in voyage planning, while the in-house agency in Singapore supported with required assistance during tugs' call at Singapore. The collaborative efforts of all involved stakeholders resulted in a seamless execution of both voyages.

Upon arrival at their destination, the tugs were proudly named *Maratha Maynak* and *Maratha Tanaji* in honour of the legendary Maratha warriors. This tribute reflects the spirit of resilience and courage associated with the Marathas and symbolizes the strength and determination demonstrated throughout these challenging voyages.

This achievement reinforces ASP India's capability to handle complex maritime operations, further solidifying its reputation as a trusted partner in the industry.



Moments after the tug was cast off and proceeded on voyage from Incheon.



The entire complement along with Capt Bhatti and SI Shriram Bharat.

Owners' Representatives VISITING SHIP

Seizing the opportunity of *Maratha Prestige* calling at the Indian port of Tuticorin on the east coast of India, senior members from the Chowgule Group paid a visit to the vessel. Their visit aimed at; to conduct a general inspection and to engage with the ship's complement.

During their time on-board, the owners' representatives assessed the vessel's overall condition, ensuring it met the expected standards. They also took the time to interact with the crew, gaining valuable insights into their experiences and well-being.

Upon their return, the owners' representatives expressed their satisfaction with the ship's condition and operations. They were particularly pleased with the enthusiasm and professionalism of the crew, highlighting the positive work environment aboard *Maratha Prestige*. Such visits reinforce the strong relationship between shipowners and crew, ensuring continuous improvements in operations, safety, and on-board welfare.



PIONEERING OPPORTUNITIES in the Manning Industry

by Julius Maitim, Crewing Manager

In the competitive crew manning industry, ASP has successfully secured a partnership with RMS AS to provide crew for several of their container vessels trading in Europe.

This collaboration creates boundless opportunities for seafarers worldwide and signifies ASP Group's continuous growth and commitment to quality service. Since April 2024, we have effectively deployed seafarers in various Officer and Rating positions. The numerous on-board promotions achieved by our crew demonstrate that ASP seafarers are not only competitive in the global market but also comply with STCW requirements and guidelines.

Looking ahead, ASP is optimistic about the potential to man additional vessels, including those in the offshore fleet, in the near future. We are dedicated to supporting RMS AS's fleet and ensuring the deployment of quality crews worldwide.



ASP CMS Manila FIRST FERRY Passenger Ship

By Myrene Galecia

2024 marks a significant milestone as we embark on a new chapter with our first passenger ferry venture in collaboration with *Jadrolinija*. This has brought challenges for our team when ASP CMS Manila was chosen by our esteemed principal, ASP Adriatic, to manage the crew for this ferry.

From the meticulous collection of candidates' CVs to the rigorous selection process, our Crewing team has diligently overseen every step of the journey, including facilitating qualified candidates' transitions to obtaining the necessary PEME certifications, work permits, and visas.

Our expedition has been defined by precision, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to the maritime industry. As we navigate these vast seas, we are guided by a shared dedication to professionalism and operational excellence, exemplified by our crew members who have shown remarkable patience and cooperation throughout this endeavour.

Thanks to the dedication of our Crewing team, led by our General Manager, Mr. Dennis Dalida, with the assistance of Ms. Myrene and the passion of Ms. Jing Jing De Leon, we have come this far. None

of this would have been possible without the trust and support of ASP Adriatic, headed by Mr. Eduard Hibser and his team.

The convergence of teamwork and proficiency has forged a seamless effort, paving the way for a prosperous maritime journey as the ASP Group ventures into operating our first passenger ferry vessel.





Mooring fatality

Excerpt from MARS Report No 202511, 26 February 2025

Providing learning through confidential reports – an international co-operative scheme for improving safety.

As edited from MAIB (UK) report 18/2024

Under pilotage, a bulk carrier was coming alongside a berth for loading. As they approached, the pilot explained to the Master the required manoeuvres. Two tugs would assist with the berthing operation. The vessel would be moored port side to the berth with two springs and four head/stern lines forward and aft, respectively.

Once the vessel was alongside with the first springs fore and aft fastened, the port control advised the pilot that the vessel needed to move 30m astern to align with the cargo loading arm. The Master instructed the mooring party crews accordingly. The vessel's engine control was set to dead slow astern, and it began to move back, eventually reaching a speed of 0.5 knots. During the manoeuvre, the forward mooring party heaved in the slack on the forward spring and the aft deck mooring party slackened the aft spring.

A few minutes later, the officer in charge of the aft mooring party positioned himself near the accommodation ladder and looked over the side rail directly above the slack spring line while using a VHF radio. At that moment, the spring line tightened, then slackened and then came under tension once more. A loud bang was heard as the line suddenly released and recoiled vertically upwards.

The officer was struck under his chin by the recoiling spring line. He was lifted and thrown backwards, his head striking the accommodation ladder behind and above his former position.

The victim was found lying in a pool of blood and the alarm was raised. Within seconds, medical assistance was requested from the port and the tugs directed to hold the vessel alongside. The port's medical team boarded quickly, but the victim was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The investigation found, among other things, that:

- As the vessel moved astern under its own power the aft spring line became trapped on the dock fendering.
- As the line tensioned and the vessel momentarily moved away from the jetty, the line released (like a bow string) upwards at an estimated speed of 65km/hr leaving the victim minimal opportunity to move out of its path.
- The use of engines while running lines is generally avoided during mooring operations to reduce the risks of mooring lines being drawn into a rotating propeller or rapid tensioning of a line.



Position of victim just prior to spring line recoil.

- The terminal's mooring procedure specifically stated that there should be no ship running manoeuvres, implying that a vessel should not use its engines while positioning alongside. It is probable that the Master of the vessel was unaware of this requirement because a copy of the terminal mooring procedure had not been provided.
- Given that vessel's engines were apparently often used while manoeuvring alongside berths at this port, it is also probable that the pilots had not been provided with the mooring procedure either.

Points to learn:

- This accident is reminiscent of MARS 201870 where the victim, also at the aft mooring area, looked overboard to gain a better view and was struck by the released spring under tension.
- This accident is testament, once again, to the dangers of mooring work. Be aware of your environment and the potential hazards.
- The energy within mooring ropes can easily injure or kill. Always use extreme caution when working within the mooring area.
- If there is no clear, unimpeded path from fairlead to bollard, beware of increased tension in the line. If necessary, slacken the line until the obstruction has been cleared.

Lockout

Excerpt from MARS Report No 202512, 26 February 2025

A crew member was told to verify the steering light on the forward mast while the vessel was under way. Before ascending the mast, the crew member radioed the bridge to inform the OOW and request that the Lock Out Tag Out (LOTO) tag be put on the bridge foghorn activator. The Master was also on the bridge and, as he went to the bridgeway, he remembered there were also foghorn activators there.

He informed the OOW and LOTO tags were installed on those activators as well.

Points to learn:

- Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) is an important procedure that can only be truly effective if both the 'lockout' and the 'tagout' have been completed. In this case, only the 'tagout' was accomplished.
- Putting 'tagout' signs on an activator may be reassuring, but this action alone does not prevent the stored energy from being accidentally released. This practice surreptitiously undermines the goal of LOTO which is to prevent 100% of accidents related to accidental energy release.

STRENGTHENING TIES by Julius Maitim, Crewing Manager



OLDENDORFF® EO

Through the ongoing partnership between Oldendorff Carriers GmbH & Co. KG and ASP Ships Group, ASP Crew Management Services Inc. – Manila is proud to contribute to their growth. We have successfully secured a manning agreement for their tugs, which will support Transshipment Operations in Guinea.

Our team has carefully selected crew members with the specific qualifications needed to operate specialized Azimuth Stern Drive (ASD) tugs. The first set of fully competent and qualified crew was deployed in September 2024, marking a significant milestone. These crews will be involved in vessel operations from Rotterdam to Guinea and are set to assist in Oldendorff's operations.

This partnership not only showcases ASP's capability in the tug industry but also highlights our pool of qualified individuals skilled in operating these powerful yet often underestimated vessels. By choosing ASP Crew Management Services Inc. – Manila, partners can invest in longevity and growth, reinforcing our commitment to excellence in crew management.

ADANI HARBOUR partners ASP CMS Manila

Adani Harbour International DMCC has recently partnered with **ASP Crew Management Services Manila Inc.** to enhance crew management for tugboats. This collaboration aims to drive operational improvements and foster innovation within the maritime industry.

Peter Rosewall, COO of Adani Harbour International DMCC, visited ASP Crew Management, leading to inspiring discussions on how both organizations can leverage their strengths to achieve excellence in crew management.

As we embark on this promising journey, ASP Crew Management Services Manila is dedicated to making a positive impact by providing highly qualified officers and crew for tugboats.

From left to right: Myrene Galecia, Deputy Operations Manager, ASP CMS Manila; Peter Rosewall, COO of Adani Harbour International DMCC; Dennis Dalida, General Manager ASP CMS Manila; and Julius Maitim, Crewing Manager, ASP CMS Manila.



11TH India Tanker Shipping & Trade Summit 2025



Capt Ivor D'Mello – ASP Group Training Manager, participated in the 11th India Tanker Shipping & Trade Summit held on February 6, 2025, at the Hotel Kohinoor Continental, Andheri East, Mumbai. This prestigious event brought together key figures from the tanker shipping industry, including representatives from D.G. Shipping and Senior Management from leading companies.

The summit served as a vital platform for industry leaders to discuss emerging opportunities and challenges in India's tanker trade. Cap. D'Mello's presence underscored ASP's commitment to staying at the forefront of industry developments and fostering collaboration among maritime professionals.

ASP CMS Manila partners with WHITAKER



**by Jing Jing De Leon,
Assistant Crewing Manager**

ASP CMS Manila has successfully partnered with John H Whitaker (Tankers) Limited, taking over two Oil Chem Tankers: The *MT Whitdawn*, on June 26, 2023, and the *MT Whitchampion*, officially taken over on May 29, 2024. This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone for ASP CMS Manila, enhancing its operational capabilities and solidifying its position in the competitive maritime crew management sector.



The acquisition of these vessels enables ASP CMS Manila to expand its fleet and meet the growing demand for reliable Filipino crew suppliers. With both tankers now integrated into its fleet, ASP CMS Manila is well-positioned for continued growth in crew management.

The company is committed to leveraging innovation in the recruitment and supply of seafarers worldwide as it navigates the evolving challenges of the maritime industry. This partnership not only strengthens ASP CMS Manila's crew management capabilities but also sets the stage for future collaborations that could further enhance its market presence.

ARROW DOCKING

Prior to commencing a new charter for DFDS operating from Portsmouth to the Channel Islands in UK, the owners, Isle of Man Steam Packet Co. agreed to drydock the vessel early, to give an uninterrupted service during the charter. UK Docks, Teesport, UK had capacity available and the docking was stemmed for beginning of March. The vessel departed from Douglas, where *Arrow* had been on standby for the Heysham Douglas operation.

The vessel arrived on schedule for docking on the 5th of March. Due to high winds, the docking was postponed until the 6th and was then successfully docked without incident.

The main work consisted of a main and one shaft generator cleaning and servicing, routine main engine bearing inspections and the renewal of the port propeller hub seals. A 24-month hull paint scheme was applied and the freshwater tank coating repaired. Some hydraulic and other piping renewals were also completed. Bowthrustrer and main propeller blades were polished and checked.

The vessel undocked on 25th March, on schedule to arrive in Portsmouth to start her first voyage to Jersey on the 27th March. The vessel has operated on this service to date with no issue.



ASP TRAINING CENTRE

opens in Mumbai



A new era in Maritime Training

We are proud to announce the opening of the ASP Training Centre in Mumbai, India, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to enhancing maritime education and professional development. This initiative is made possible with the generous support of The International Maritime Employers' Council Ltd (IMEC) International Maritime Training Fund, reflecting a shared commitment to fostering excellence in the global maritime industry.

The ASP Training Centre is designed to provide world-class training to ASP Seafarers and Cadets, as well as Seafarers from other companies, including IMEC members. With cutting-edge equipment, expert instructors, and a curriculum tailored to industry best practices, the centre aims to bridge the skill gap and ensure seafarers are equipped with the knowledge and competencies required for safe and efficient maritime operations.

Commitment to Safety and Continuous Improvement

The establishment of the ASP Maritime Training Centre underscores our unwavering dedication to safety, excellence, and continuous improvement in maritime operations.



From left to right: Capt Ivor D'Mello, Mr Sanjay Kelkar, Capt Vaibhav Rupade, Mr Chowgule and Mr Vitalii Chaika.

As the industry evolves with new regulations, technologies, and best practices, the centre will serve as a pivotal resource in upskilling seafarers and preparing them for the challenges of modern shipping.

We extend our gratitude to IMEC and the International Maritime Training Fund for their support in making this vision a reality. The ASP Training Centre is not just a facility; it is a testament to our shared commitment to raising industry standards and ensuring a safer, more competent global maritime workforce.

ABO SHOTEN SEMINAR

milestone at the new ASP Training Centre



On November 29, 2024, the New ASP Training Centre hosted its inaugural seminar, organized on behalf of ABO Shoten, the esteemed Japanese principals of ASP Ships India Pvt Ltd. This landmark event brought together 16 Senior and Junior officers from the ASP managed Bulk Carriers, alongside the Senior Management teams of both ABO Shoten and ASP.

The seminar was meticulously planned and executed, featuring engaging presentations and focused discussions that fostered collaboration and camaraderie between shore-based and shipboard personnel. The exchange of ideas underscored the shared commitment to operational excellence and teamwork within the maritime industry.

The presence of Senior Management from both organizations highlighted the importance of this initiative in strengthening ties between stakeholders. The seminar not only showcased technical expertise but also served as a platform for building stronger interpersonal relationships among participants.

The ambience and facilities of the new ASP Training Centre added to the success of the Seminar.





On January 14, 2025, Ms Urmila Patil, Head of Operations, and Ms Chitra Nair, Crewing Manager at ASP Crew Ships India Private Limited, visited the Svitzer tug at Pipavav Port. Their purpose was to present awards to the crew and acknowledge their long-term commitment to the company. During this visit, they had the opportunity to meet the entire on-board crew, check on their well-being, and celebrate the contributions of two key crew members who had completed 10 years of service. Their leadership and support were instrumental in ensuring the visit's success and the smooth distribution of awards.

The visit involved meeting with the entire on-board crew of the Svitzer tug. It provided a valuable opportunity to check on their well-being and understand their experiences while working on the vessel. During the visit, 2E Anitesh Samanta and Oiler Pradeep Singh were honoured for their ten years of dedicated service with ASP Crew Ships India. Their commitment, hard work, and contributions have played a crucial role in the successful operations of the vessel. Recognizing the efforts of crew members is essential for fostering a positive work environment and motivating employees to continue excelling in their roles. As a gesture of gratitude, they were presented with a certificate and a small token of appreciation.

The visit emphasized the importance of consistent communication with the crew and provided management with the opportunity to directly observe the crew's working environment. This first-hand interaction showcased the dedication and professionalism of the crew, who played a crucial role in ensuring the vessel operated smoothly. Both 2E Anitesh Sumanta and Oiler Pradeep Singh have consistently demonstrated exceptional skills, work ethic, and leadership, making them invaluable assets to the crew. The feedback from the crewing managers was overwhelmingly positive, emphasizing their commitment to operational excellence. The crewing managers discussed best practices, shared feedback with the crew, and addressed any operational concerns. This exchange of ideas reinforced the importance of continuous improvement. Additionally, the crew offered valuable insights on ways to enhance the vessel's operations further.

ASP Crew Ships India is committed to emphasizing recognition and collaboration, acknowledging that its crew plays a vital role in the company's success. The company plans to introduce additional recognition initiatives in the future, not only to honour long-term service but also to celebrate exceptional performance and key milestones achieved by the crew. These initiatives will help ensure that the crew stay motivated and dedicated to providing high-quality service.



UKRAINE Representative Director

The International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC) announced at its Annual General Meeting held in Southampton on 16th May 2024 the approval and recommendation from the IMEC Executive Committee (EXCOM) for the appointment of Vitalii Chaika, Group Crewing Director of ASP Crew Management Services, as its Ukraine Representative Director.



IMEC

This move ensures that the EXCOM has a member who can provide direct insights into the manpower supply market, which remains vital for the membership despite the disruptions caused by the war.

IMEC is the only international employers' organisation dedicated to maritime industrial relations, representing over 280 maritime employers worldwide. IMEC coordinates the views of its members and negotiates fair and sustainable seafarers' wages and conditions of employment on their behalf.

MTWTU event



With the support of the Embassy of Ukraine in Singapore and ASP Ships Group, the The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU) organized a Ukrainian Maritime Event in Singapore in October 2024.

The main goals of the event were to create new job opportunities for Ukrainian seafarers, discuss the current challenges they face, and raise international awareness of their significant contributions to the maritime industry. The MTWTU aims to demonstrate that, despite all the difficulties, Ukrainian seafarers continue to work with dedication and professionalism. The event also provided an opportunity to address shipowners' concerns, dispel doubts about hiring Ukrainian seafarers, and promote their positive image in the global community.

From left: David Borcoski – ASP Ships Group Managing Director, Kateryna Zelenko – Ambassador of Ukraine to Singapore, Oleg Grygoriuk – Chairman of the MTWTU, Capt Belal Ahmed – Chairman of IMEC, Vitalii Chaika – ASP Group Crewing Director and Adrian Whatley – ASP Ships Group Commercial Director.

New additions to NORTADA

Expansion of Nortada Shipmanagement Fleet with New Container Carriers

Following the successful takeover of M/V *Pros Hope* in March 2024, Nortada Shipmanagement has further expanded its fleet with two additional container carriers. The M/V *Shui Spirit* was acquired in Busan on May 27, while the M/V *Geeske*—later renamed *Salgueiro*—was taken over in Algeiras on June 27.

In keeping with the Owners' tradition, the manning of both vessels is being managed collaboratively by ASP Crew Management's Ukrainian and Myanmar offices.

Currently, both vessels operate between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, with regular calls at the Ukrainian port of Chornomorsk.



Promoting GENDER EQUALITY



Capt Muhammad Zaber, ASP Bangladesh General Manager interviewing Deck Cadet Nafisa and Engine Cadet Fatima, graduates of the 56th.

In alignment with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, Oldendorff Carriers has actively promoted female seafarers to join its fleet. Responding to this initiative, ASP CM CEO Vitalii Chaika reached out to the ASP Bangladesh office to explore the availability of female officers for Oldendorff. Although no female officers were available at the time, we identified two promising female deck and engine cadets.

Deck Cadet Nafisa and Engine Cadet Fatima, graduates of the 56th Batch of Bangladesh Marine Academy in 2022, were immediately available for deployment. Following a series of assessments and interviews, Ms. Katrin Hummer, Crew Development Manager of Oldendorff Fleet Management, approved their selection and requested the application for their U.S. visas.

Oldendorff Carriers has expressed continued interest in expanding its Cadet Program with Bangladeshi female seafarers. As a result, two additional deck and engine cadets have been approved to join the fleet.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Katrin Hummer for her unwavering support, Oldendorff management for their exceptional approval, and CEO Vitalii Chaika for initiating this process and advocating for female officers.

ASP Bangladesh has been a pioneer in integrating female officers and cadets into its fleet since 2019. Today, they continue this commitment by deploying Bangladeshi female cadets on third-party management vessels, further advancing IMO's mission of gender equality and empowering women in the maritime industry.

(Left) Deck Cadet Shanzida, (middle) Cadet Engineer Nusrat and (right) Deck Cadet Lamia, 58 batch of BMA selected by Oldendorff Carriers / ASP in 2025.

Newspaper feature on CHIEF COOK

Our very own Chief Cook, Mr. James Cachuela, aboard the MS *Aila*, has been featured in an article by *Helsingin Sanomat*, Finland's largest newspaper. This recognition not only highlights the remarkable contributions made by individuals in Finnish workplaces during the Christmas season but also brings great honour to ASP Group.

In the article, CCK James is captured bringing in a delectable dessert that he skilfully crafted himself. This moment showcases his impressive culinary abilities and embodies the joyous spirit of the holiday season. His commitment to creating delightful dishes reflects the warmth and community that this time of year brings.

At ASP Group, we couldn't be prouder to have James as part of our team. His passion for cooking and his ability to foster a sense of togetherness through food serve as an inspiration to us all. This recognition not only celebrates James but also underscores the dedication and talent present within our organization. We hope it encourages others to celebrate the joy of cooking and the importance of community during this festive period.

Congratulations, James Leonard Cachuela, on this well-deserved recognition! Your hard work and creativity truly shine, and we look forward to more delicious creations from you.





Mariner heads back to Darwin

NT Resources Week '24

**MARINER
TRAVEL**



After an 8-year break, Mariner returned to the NT Resources Week Expo, which is held every year in Darwin.

The event included three conferences: Southeast Asia Australia Offshore, Mining in the Territory, and Clean Energy. The expo offered great networking opportunities during the conference break times.

Mariner CEO Aaron Watts advised *ASPECTS* **"It was great to return to Darwin after 8 years and network with various SME businesses that operate within the resource and offshore industries. The travel needs of mining and offshore workers are similar to those of ship crews, so we are in a strong position to serve these clients effectively."**

Joined by new Mariner consultant Aasha Wigham at the event the week proved very successful with Mariner signing two new clients, ASCO and Powering Australia, which will also be managed by Aasha.

ASCO delivers a wide range of integrated solutions and specialist services across all areas of logistics, materials, fuels & bulks, marine & environmental services, and make a material difference to their customers' operations and have their Australia base in Perth.



Mariner will assist with moving workers to and from various camps they operate.



Powering Australia is an industry body that has been established after being awarded funds from the Australian Government. It will help to create the conditions for success in clean-tech manufacturing by connecting businesses, accelerating commercial activity and building workforce capability with various industry partners.

Based in Perth they will have representatives around Australia and will have a mix of domestic and International travel.

Mariner also became a member of Energy Club NT from the event which offers further networking opportunities and will be exhibiting at the Australian Energy Producer Conference in May 2025.



Mariner India is back!

After 10 years, Mariner has returned to Mumbai with the setup of an initial consultant, based within the Crew Management Services (CMS) India office. Kevin Lopes (*pictured right*) joined Mariner in November 2024 as the India-based Travel Consultant.

Mariner CEO Aaron Watts commented **"The time was right for us to have a team back in India to facilitate the growing crew travel requirements from CMS as well as the servicing benefits of us being in the same office. As the volumes grow, we hope to expand the team and explore the opportunities with other companies."**

Kevin has been in the travel industry for many years with strong expertise in crew bookings having worked previously with V Ships and Griffin/Instone and will take over managing CMS India bookings from the Mariner Ukraine team as well as growing opportunities outside of CMS in the future.

Langh Ship partners with Mariner Ukraine

In February 2025 Langh Ship signed with Mariner Ukraine to facilities their travel booking requirements.



Langh Ship is based in Finland and operates around 13 vessels and already has a strong relationship with the ASP Group which provides services to them.

"It is a great addition for the Ukraine team to assist Langh with their travel requirements and a positive extension of the relationship ASP already has with them. With CMS India bookings moving from the Ukraine team back to India, this allow us to look at more EU based opportunities for the team moving forward." Mariner CEO Aaron Watts advises.

Australian & New Zealand SEA STAFF SEMINAR

We had the privilege of attending the Australian and New Zealand Sea Staff Seminar in Wellington on February 24-25, where our dedicated crew from ASP Ship Management and Silver Fern Shipping gathered with industry experts to enhance our skills, share insights, and strengthen our commitment to excellence in maritime operations. This seminar provided an invaluable opportunity for our teams to engage in important



discussions, stay up-to-date with the latest maritime trends, and build on best practices for safety, efficiency, and leadership at sea. A special thank you to the event organizers for creating such a collaborative and enriching experience for all attendees!

We look forward to applying the knowledge gained to continue delivering the best in class service and ensuring the safety and efficiency of our vessels and crew.

2025 AMC Careers Expo

The 2025 AMC Careers Expo, held on March 19th at the Australian Maritime College (AMC), UTAS Launceston, Tasmania, was an incredible opportunity for students and professionals to explore the diverse and exciting career paths within the maritime industry.

It was also a special moment, as Ever Ocampo, Recruitment Consultant ASP Australia (*pictured*) had the chance to meet our sponsored cadets at AMC and check on their progress. We're so proud to see their dedication and growth in the maritime field, and We're excited to continue supporting their journeys as they embark on successful careers!

Highlights of the day included:

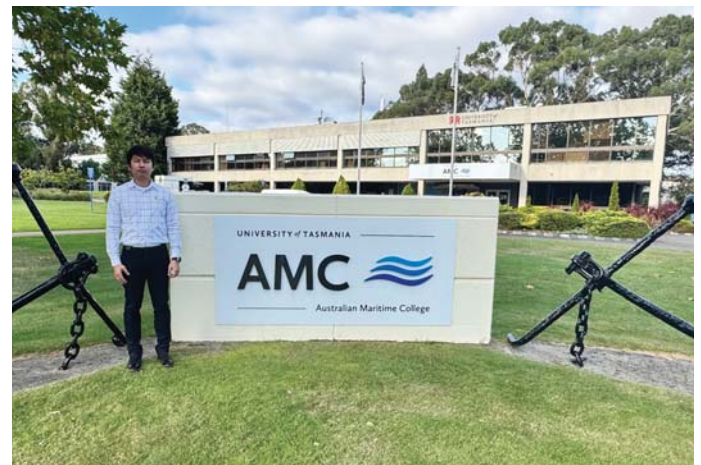
- **Career Insights:** A chance to meet industry leaders and learn about the latest trends and opportunities in the maritime field.
- **Cutting-Edge Exhibits:** The latest maritime technologies, from eco-friendly vessels to smart navigation systems.
- **Engaging Discussions:** Thought-provoking conversations, and workforce development.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connecting with professionals, industry leaders, professionals and students passionate about shaping the future of maritime.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, exhibited, and participated in making this event such a success! It's inspiring to see so many passionate individuals entering the maritime industry, and we're excited for what the future holds.

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA



Australian Maritime College



INTERVIEW:

Aleksandr Tayunov

An interview with Aleksandr Tayunov, General Manager of ASP Ukraine, about crew management operations in Odesa during the ongoing invasion.

How did you and your team manage to maintain operations during such a challenging time?

Despite the ongoing war and all the difficulties that time has prepared for us, our team remained fully operational from our office in Odesa. To continue working, we were forced to quickly adapt to new realities, implementing contingency measures such as using alternative power sources during power outages and ensuring stable communication channels with our seafarers, clients, management office in Singapore and ASP branch offices worldwide. Close cooperation with our partners allowed us to maintain the steady supply of qualified seafarers for bulkers, container ships, tankers, and Ro-Ro cargo vessels as per requirements, ensuring minimal disruption to our daily operations.

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced while continuing to meet operational demands?

One of the main challenges was ensuring operational continuity amid frequent power outages, internet disruptions, travel restrictions and safety concerns.

An insidious and ruthless war came to Ukraine. Thanks to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the situation in Odesa and the surrounding regions remains stable and under control. However, constant attacks on critical local and port infrastructure continue to pose challenges for our region and the country as a whole.

From the first day of this merciless war, our office has not stopped working for a single day. We have accepted the challenges that harsh reality has thrown at us and have continued to support our seafarers and their families, providing employment opportunities on our clients' ships with decent working conditions and wages.

How did the local infrastructure and logistics challenges impact your operations, and what solutions did you implement to overcome them?

The war has had an impact on transportation, document processing, and general infrastructure. To address the challenges, we optimized remote communication, secured alternative power sources, and worked closely with our clients and partners to streamline travel and documentation processes for our seafarers.



From left to right: Vadym Syrota – Crewing Manager, Mariia Zadorozhna – Assistant Crewing Manager, Marina Supotian – Administrative Manager, Aleksandr Tayunov – General Manager, Andrii Kliuiev – Recruitment Manager.

Our priority is to ensure crew changes remained as smooth as possible under the current circumstances.

How did the geopolitical situation affect your recruitment and staffing processes, both locally and internationally?

The war has made recruitment more complex due to travel restrictions, visa difficulties, and security concerns. Some seafarers have faced challenges in obtaining necessary documents and uncertainty about their ability to join vessels.

Despite these geopolitical challenges, Ukrainian seafarers remain highly sought after in the global maritime industry. Thanks to the united support of the entire maritime community and the efforts of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, they continue to have opportunities for employment on vessels with decent working conditions. The extended and crucial support of shipowners today helps ensure stable employment for qualified Ukrainian seafarers during this difficult time.

How did you manage to keep morale high among your team and crew during such uncertain and dangerous times?

Morale is a crucial factor in tough times. We have developed a strong team spirit through clear communication, mutual support, and a shared sense of purpose. Maintaining a stable workflow, and acknowledging the efforts of our staff and seafarers have helped keep motivation high. Knowing that our work directly supports the livelihoods of seafarers and their families has given us the strength to keep going.

We have unwavering faith in our country and its future, and we will continue to do everything in our power to contribute to the prosperity and well-being of Ukraine and its seafarers.



CHALLENGES in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine created massive challenges for Ukrainian seafarers and their families. Despite the crisis, Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine continue to support its members and provide all possible social, humanitarian and legal support.

“Having resourceful partners like ASP Ships Group” – Oleg Grygoriuk, Chairman of MTWTU admits, “we manage to host world maritime leaders like Arsenio Dominges, IMO General Secretary, who despite risks imposed by Russian aggression against Ukraine visited our Union office and Maritime Union Center to meet with future generations of maritime professionals from Ukraine.”

Photo: Oleg Grygoriuk, Chairman of MTWTU (left) and Arsenio Dominges, IMO General Secretary (right).

ASP CMS Manila recognized as the Best Reliable Crew Solutions Provider

ASP Crew Management Services Manila, Inc. is honoured to receive the prestigious title of “Best Reliable Crew Solutions Provider” at the Golden Globe Annual Awards for Business Excellence and Outstanding Filipino Achievers. This recognition marks a significant milestone for our organization, and we extend our sincere gratitude to the event’s organizers, particularly Dir. Ramon Juanito Balunes, Chairman of the Awards and Research Committee.

This award represents more than just an accolade; it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation in crew management services. Our team has worked diligently to uphold the highest standards of service, and this recognition affirms our dedication to our mission.

We share this achievement with our esteemed Principals and Owners, whose trust and support have been instrumental in our journey. We also extend our deepest appreciation to all our seafarers. Their hard work and dedication have made this honour possible, and their continued commitment motivates us to enhance our services continuously.

At ASP CMS Manila, we remain dedicated to maintaining the high standards of excellence that this award embodies. We pledge to continuously refine our operations and services to better serve our seafarers and partners in the maritime industry.

As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to many more years of collaboration and success. Together, we will navigate the challenges of the maritime world and continue to support the outstanding Filipino seafarers who play a vital role in global maritime trade.



Hamburg Maritime Forum

On April 1st and 2nd, 2025, the Hamburg Maritime Forum brought together up to 450 industry experts from across the maritime world.

Hosted at the city’s historical fish-auction-hall, this prestigious annual event gathered shipowners, ship managers and classification societies and technology companies to discuss the future of maritime operations. The event’s ten expert panel discussions addressed essential subjects such as decarbonisation, future maritime fuels, the impact of introducing Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Solutions for the Shipping industry.



Bjoern Borbe, Managing Director, ASP Ships Germany addresses the Forum.

During his participation of the Future Crew Safety and Welfare panel Mr. Bjoern Borbe, Managing Director of ASP Ships Germany, shared his view on how seafarers, who act at the heart of maritime operations, can be better supported by the industry.

In conclusion of his statement Mr. Borbe underlined the importance of keeping the human touch as a key element of managing the digital transformation.

It will be essential for the future success of the maritime industry to establish and maintain true personal relationships throughout vessel operations.

Serving as a meeting point for industry leaders and enabling participants to stay ahead of industry trends and/or discover ground-breaking solutions the ASP Ships Group proud in having supported the Hamburg Maritime Forum as an active commitment to drive the future of the maritime world.





Filipino Seafarers: Protecting Rights & Elevating Standards

Filipino Seafarers is a landmark legislation that outlines the rights and responsibilities of Filipino sailors, including their qualifications, employment terms, and education and training requirements. Republic Act (RA) 12021 is designed to safeguard the welfare of domestic and overseas Filipino seafarers while promoting their full employment through a comprehensive framework that enhances their rights and overall well-being in both local and international shipping sectors.

This legislation marks a significant milestone for the Filipino seafaring industry, aiming to elevate the country's renowned maritime heritage. It seeks to enhance training and competencies, improve living standards both on-board and ashore, and strengthen protections for crew claims.

On November 5, 2024, and January 30, 2025, ASP Crew Management Services participated in a forum organized by the Filipino Association for Mariners' Employment (F.A.M.E), the Joint Manning Group (JMG), and the Associated Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP).

Insights from JMG Press Release No. 02-2024

The forum attracted a diverse audience, including seafarers, manning agencies, maritime organizations, legal experts, the maritime press, and government representatives, particularly from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), the primary agency overseeing the law's implementation.

The event served as a crucial platform for discussing the impact and implications of the new law on seafarers, manning agencies, and other stakeholders. Additionally, it provided an opportunity to gather feedback and recommendations for developing the Magna Carta's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). This collaborative effort ensures that the IRR remains fair, practical, and responsive to the needs of seafarers and the broader maritime community.

Reported by: Dennis Dalida, General Manager



From left to right: Julius Maitim – Crewing Manager, Sheryl Mabini – President, Congressman Ron Salo author of R.A 12021 – Republic of the Philippines, and Dennis Dalida – General Manager.



Expanding Horizons: Venezuelan Cadet Program

ASP Crew Management Services Ukraine Ltd. is delighted to extend our partnership with Oldendorff Carriers to offer valuable career-building opportunities for Venezuelan Deck and Engine Cadets. This initiative aims to nurture talented individuals in the maritime industry, equipping them with the skills, experience, and global exposure necessary to excel in their careers aboard one of the world's leading bulk carrier fleets.

Oldendorff Carriers, a globally recognized name in bulk shipping, operates a diverse fleet of modern and efficient vessels. In collaboration with ASP Crew Management Services, this program seeks to attract and develop promising cadets from Venezuela—a country with a rich maritime tradition and a wealth of untapped talent.

Together, we are committed to enhancing maritime education and providing aspiring cadets with invaluable hands-on experience aboard bulk carriers. This initiative aligns with both organizations' dedication to excellence, sustainability, and the advancement of global shipping.

Program Benefits:

Selected male and female cadets will undergo a comprehensive training experience that includes:

- **Hands-On Training:** Working alongside seasoned professionals, cadets will gain practical insights into the daily operations of bulk carriers.
- **Global Exposure:** The program offers cadets an opportunity to experience international shipping routes, multicultural crews, and diverse maritime environments.
- **Career Development:** With structured training and mentorship, cadets will build a strong foundation for long-term success in the maritime industry.
- **Professional Growth:** The program equips cadets with practical skills and knowledge to meet the highest industry standards.

Venezuela's deep-rooted maritime heritage, coupled with the resilience and determination of its people, makes its cadets ideal candidates for this initiative. Our goal is to empower these young professionals with the tools and opportunities needed to thrive in a competitive global market while fostering diversity and inclusivity within the maritime workforce.

We invite aspiring Venezuelan Deck and Engine Cadets to seize this unique opportunity to embark on a rewarding maritime career with Oldendorff Carriers. Together, let's set sail towards a brighter future, driving innovation and excellence in global shipping.



Meet Christian Riis: ASP Ships Group's New CEO – Asia

An interview with Christian Riis on his journey, leadership vision, and key achievements so far.

Welcome to ASP, Christian – when did you start, and how has your journey been so far?

Thanks! I officially joined ASP Ships Group on July 1, 2024, and from day one, I've been truly impressed by the commitment, expertise, and teamwork that define ASP.

What stands out the most is the strength of our teams—both onshore and at sea. Our employees and seafarers are the backbone of our success, and I'm incredibly proud to be part of a company that is continuously growing and earning trust from new and existing clients.

In just a few months, we've achieved some remarkable milestones:

- Al Seer Marine entrusted ASP with four Medium Range (MR) tankers, delivered from South Korea's K Shipbuilding between August and November 2024. The *Betelgeuse*, *Bellatrix*, *Mintaka*, and *Saiph* are state-of-the-art vessels, equipped with scrubbers and fuel-flexible engines capable of running on LNG, ammonia, and methanol – showcasing ASP's commitment to managing future-ready fleets.
- Our fleet continues to grow with the addition of two second-hand bulk carriers, managed for two new clients. The *Diamond Star II* (Supramax, 57,273 DWT) joined our fleet in September 2024 for Stellar Ocean Transport LLC (SOT), while the *Arwen Gemini* (Kamsarmax, 81,963 DWT) was taken over in February 2025 for Universal Navigation.
- We further strengthened our partnership with Chowgule & Co, taking over the full technical management of two second-hand tugboats in October and November 2024.

These achievements are a testament to ASP's reputation for delivering reliable, high-quality ship management. They also highlight the dedication and competence of our teams and seafarers, whose expertise ensures the seamless integration of new vessels into our fleet.

What motivated you to join ASP Ships Group?

ASP has an incredible legacy of over 60 years in ship management, and it's a company that values tailored solutions and operational excellence. I was particularly drawn to ASP's strong reputation for client-centric services and its commitment to crew welfare and safety – two aspects that are close to my heart.

With the industry facing major transformations in technology, sustainability, and regulation, I saw a great opportunity to be part of a team that is shaping the future of modern ship management.

What are your top priorities as you step into this leadership role?

There are three key areas that I'll be focusing on:

1. Strengthening ASP's ship management services – Ensuring we remain trusted partners for our clients by delivering safe, reliable, and high-quality operations.
2. Driving innovation and digital transformation – From smart fleet management to data-driven decision-making, technology will play a big role in shaping how we enhance efficiency and safety.

CHRISTIAN RIIS BIO



Christian Riis, originally from Denmark, is the CEO – Asia at ASP Ships Group, bringing over 20 years of maritime experience. He has spent the past nine years in Singapore and has worked with various Scandinavian shipowners before joining Berge Bulk in Singapore in 2026.

Before joining ASP in July 2024, Christian was a Director at Rio Tinto, leading the company's marine safety, crew welfare initiatives, and risk management for its chartered fleet. His expertise spans ship management, commercial operations, safety leadership, and digital transformation.



3. Fostering a strong workplace culture – A company is only as good as its people. That means supporting our teams both at sea and ashore, ensuring they feel valued, empowered, and part of ASP's long-term success.

The industry is changing fast – what excites you the most about the future of shipping?

The pace of change is faster than ever! Two things stand out to me. First, decarbonization – the push for greener fuels and more sustainable shipping solutions is an industry-wide challenge, and ASP has a role to play in helping clients navigate that transition. Second, talent development – as ships become more advanced, we need to attract and retain the next generation of maritime professionals. That means investing in crew training, leadership development, and a culture where people thrive.

Outside of work, what do you enjoy doing?

I'm a big believer in balancing work and family. My wife, Nadia, and I have two wonderful children, Lucca and Vitus, and they definitely keep life interesting! I also enjoy travelling, exploring different cultures, and whenever time allows, you'll probably find me by the water or outdoors.

Finally, what message would you like to share with your ASP colleagues?

I'm excited to be on this journey with you all! Ship management is a people business, and our collective expertise, dedication, and teamwork are what set ASP apart. I look forward to working closely with our teams across the world, learning from your experiences, and ensuring that together, we continue to make ASP an industry leader.

Closing Thoughts?

As Christian settles into his role, his vision for ASP is clear: to build on the company's strengths, embrace innovation, and ensure ASP remains a leader in world-class ship management.

Join us in welcoming Christian to the ASP family!

A Voyage of Dedication: Promoted to Captain on vessel *Sandro*

Every sailor dreams of the day they stand tall as captain, steering not just a vessel but the lives and dreams of an entire crew. For the Chief Officer of the vessel *Sandro*, that dream became a reality—a testament to years of grit, resilience, and unparalleled dedication.

The announcement brought joy to myself and the crew, who have witnessed my journey first-hand. This is not just my achievement, said with a lump in my throat. It belongs to every mentor who guided me, every crew member who stood by me, and my family, who waited patiently onshore while I chased my dreams. The journey from Chief Officer to Captain was not just a career progression; it was the realization of a dream forged in hard work and fuelled by passion.

After 18 years of service on the high seas, rising through the ranks with steadfast determination, I was officially promoted to the esteemed role of Captain. This promotion is more than a title—it is a culmination of sleepless nights, unwavering leadership, and a deep sense of responsibility for the safety of my crew and the vessel.

Hard Work Paved the Way

The journey to becoming captain was no easy feat. My career began with humble beginnings as a deck cadet. Early on, my exceptional work ethic and ability to inspire others set me apart. I embraced every challenge as an opportunity to learn, whether it was navigating treacherous waters, managing cargo operations, or leading emergency drills.

Capt Jitu Kar

Leadership is not about a title; it's about earning the trust of your crew.

As I step into this new role as Captain of *Sandro*, I carry the lessons of the past, the respect of my peers, and the unshakable belief that hard work and perseverance always pay off.

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has been a part of this incredible journey. To the team on-board and ashore, thank you for your unwavering support, trust, and camaraderie. Your dedication and teamwork are what made this success possible. A special thanks to ASP Ships Group for believing in me and granting me this opportunity. This promotion is not just a recognition of my efforts but a testament to the values and culture of excellence that ASP Ships Group stands for. I am honoured to lead under this banner and will strive to uphold the company's commitment to safety, innovation, and teamwork.

Thank you all, and here's to many more successful voyages ahead!



Bjoern Borbe

Mr. Bjoern Borbe joined newly established ASP Ships Germany in Hamburg as Managing Director from the 1st of January 2025.

Bjoern brings with him 22 years of experience in the Maritime industry, mainly in crew management roles at ship owning and ship management companies, whereby he gained insights in liner shipping and ship activities. His career path took him through working with large-scale ship managers, family-owned shipping companies as well as stock-listed cruise operators. From the experiences he gained over time, Bjoern is very much convinced that establishing and

maintaining a true, transparent, and personal relationship between ship and office staff is one, if not the key element for a successful vessel operation. Clear policies and procedures, lean management structures and open lines of communication as well as reliable and user-friendly software applications, he identified as tools with a positive contribution for the ship/shore relationship management.

Being born and growing up on the German coastline of the Baltic Sea, the seeds of passion for the maritime world were planted during his childhood. Despite his decision to follow up a maritime career ashore, activities such as sailing and rowing have kept him connected to the water and the open seas. However, his true passion for sports lies with Handball, a team sport which he used to play at competitive levels during his younger days. Next to being engaged with sports, Bjoern enjoys spending his free time with his family, whereby it frequently takes them to the Austrian alps for hiking or skiing during school holidays.

Addition to ASP Ship Management Team

ASP Ship Management is pleased to welcome back Mr. Girish Rao to the team. Having previously served as a Ship Manager at ASP India for nearly a decade, Mr. Rao has rejoined the ship management team after a two-year hiatus. His return marks a significant reinforcement to the team, especially with the upcoming new build projects on the horizon.

With his extensive experience and deep understanding of fleet operations, Girish's presence will undoubtedly strengthen ASP India's ship management capabilities. His expertise in handling vessel operations, compliance, and crew management will be invaluable in ensuring the highest standards of service and operational efficiency.

The ASP team looks forward to leveraging Girish's skills and leadership as they continue to expand and enhance their ship management operations. His return comes at a crucial time, aligning with ASP's commitment to excellence in managing its growing fleet.





Capt Vaibhav Rupade

Capt Vaibhav Rupade has been promoted to the position of General Manager at ASP Crew Management Services, Singapore. In his new role, he is responsible for the entire crew management of the in-house fleet under ASP Ship Management Singapore, India DOC, and optional third-party crewing clients.

Captain Vaibhav has had a long career with the ASP Ships Group. He first served ASP Ship Management Singapore from 2008 to 2014, where he was responsible for overseeing the Tanker QA and DPA CSO roles for one fleet. In 2019, he re-joined ASP as General Manager of ASP Crew Management India, leading operations for over three years, including during the most challenging period of the pandemic. Most recently, in 2024, he held the position of Group Head of Operations for ASP Crew Management Services, based in Singapore, overseeing crewing and agency operations.

An MBA graduate, Capt Vaibhav's professional interests are centred on Human Resources, Human Factors, and Employee Wellness. He has developed expertise in Mindfulness and Gender Equality and has conducted courses on these topics.

Dennis S. Dalidato

Dennis Dalidato has been promoted to the position of General Manager at ASP Crew Management Services, Inc. in the Philippines.

Dennis joined ASP Crew Management Philippines as the Recruitment & Training Manager in July 2022 and quickly advanced to Head of Operations. Under Dennis's leadership, ASP Philippines has tripled its crew numbers. Before transitioning to shore-based roles, Dennis sailed as a Cadet and Junior Officer on international vessels. After coming ashore, he worked for reputable shipping companies in Angola, Singapore and Philippines.

Dennis holds a Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation, graduating Cum Laude from Aklan Polytechnic College (APC), where he served as the Supreme Student Council President from 1994 to 1995. He is also one of the founders and administrators of Aklan Seafarers, a local group with over 5,000 members.

Urmila Patil

Ms. Urmila Patil joined ASP India as Crewing Head of Operations in November 2024. She has been a part of the maritime industry for over 20 years and previously managed a fleet of 80 ships as Head of Crewing Operations in a reputable company.

Her extensive experience covers various vessel types, with a special focus on Oil/Chemical Tankers. She holds a Post-Graduate degree in Human Resource Management from Welingkar's Institute (2012) and a Bachelor of Commerce from Mumbai University (2004). Additionally, she has completed the Internal QMS Auditor Training course from LRQA.

Beyond her professional expertise, Urmila is passionate about travelling and participating in various sports.

Myrene Gerochi-Galecia

Myrene Gerochi-Galecia joined ASP as a Senior Crewing Executive on May 15, 2022, bringing a wealth of experience to her role. She was subsequently promoted to Recruitment Manager on February 1, 2023, and further advanced to Deputy Operations Manager on July 1, 2024.

Myrene holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from St. Paul College of Iloilo. After graduating in 1998, she began her career in the shipping industry as a Quality Management System (QMS) Assistant at Philippine Transmarine Carriers. She was promoted to Marine Personnel Officer in 1999, a position she held until 2004.

Her extensive experience includes roles such as Training Manager and Crewing Manager at various companies, including one based in Singapore.

Sheena Mae R. Suganob

Ms. Sheena Mae R. Suganob is currently one of the Crewing Managers at ASP Crew Management Services, Inc. in Manila. She embarked on her career in the maritime industry immediately after graduating from college.

In 1998, she began her journey as an Assistant Liaison Officer at Golar Maritime Services, Inc., where she worked until May 31, 2002. She then joined ASP Crew Management Services, Inc. as a Liaison Officer from June 1, 2002, to August 1, 2008. During this time, she gained extensive experience in processing formalities with the Philippine Overseas Labor Administration (now the Department of Migrant Workers) and managed crew documentation and DMW procedures. From August 2, 2008, to March 31, 2022, Ms. Suganob served as an Operations Assistant and Flag State Officer. Most recently, from April 15, 2022, to June 30, 2024, she held the position of Senior Crewing Executive.

With her wealth of experience and dedication to excellence, Sheena continues to make significant contributions to the maritime industry.

STAFF NEWS

Julius Maitim

On the 6th of June 2022, Julius Maitim joined ASP as a Crewing Assistant. He was then promoted as Crewing Executive on the 1st of February 2023 and was appointed as Crewing Manager from 1st of July 2024.

Julius holds a degree in Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation from Lyceum International Maritime Academy - Lyceum of the Philippines University – Batangas. A product of the Marlow Navigation Cadetship Program, with international seafaring experience in Container Vessels, and later-on sailed in various ranks in VLCC and Suezmax vessels.

In his leisure time, he spends time reading the industry updates and trading Forex & Crypto Currencies.

Angel Faith Bargado

Angel Faith Bargado began her career with ASP Crew Management Services (CMS) Manila on June 20, 2022, as a Senior Crewing Executive, bringing seven years of experience in the crewing industry. Her dedication quickly led to her promotion to Crewing Manager on July 1, 2024, where she now oversees crew management and complex operations.

Prior to joining ASP CMS, Faith worked for seven years as a Crewing Officer at MST Philippines, where she developed a strong foundation in crew management and maritime operations.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Tourism from St. Therese College of Iloilo. With her academic background and professional experience, Faith is committed to enhancing crewing standards at ASP CMS Manila and supporting the well-being of seafarers.

Chitra Nair

Chitra Nair has been promoted to Crewing Manager of ASP India. Chitra joined ASP in April 2023 as a Fleet Personnel and Sourcing Executive.

With 13 years of experience in Customer Service Operations and Logistics Management, she contributed her expertise to this dynamic organization. At ASP, she is actively involved in managing personnel for various vessel types, including Tanker Vessels, Bulk Vessels, and Tugs. Chitra holds a Bachelor's Degree in Financial Markets and a Diploma in EXIM.

Capt Pascual Matira Manalo Jr. PhD

Pascual currently serves as the Training Manager at ASP Crew Management in Manila, following his tenure as Fleet Marine Superintendent at Jship Management Philippines. He holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Maritime Transportation & Education from the Lyceum of the Philippines – Batangas. His academic journey culminated in a Doctorate in Maritime Administration from the Asian Institute of Maritime Studies, with a specialization in Maritime Education & Training.

With extensive experience as a Merchant Marine Officer, Pascual has navigated various tanker vessels in global trading, equipping him with in-depth knowledge of ship and port administration, maritime safety, and numerous STCW courses. His expertise encompasses various maritime disciplines, including meteorology, radar and ARPA, ship handling, cargo management, maritime law, trim & stability and navigation.

In addition to his maritime experience, Pascual is a dedicated educator. He has taught at both MOL Magsaysay Maritime Academy and Lyceum International Maritime Academy. He holds Master Mariner certification and has passed all necessary licensure exams. His excellence in teaching has been recognized with multiple awards, including Outstanding Faculty from MOL Magsaysay for three consecutive years.

He has also received accolades from the Professional Regulation Commission and an Award of Excellence from Maersk Filipinas Crewing Inc.

Vitalii Chaika PhD

ASP Ships Group congratulates Dr. Vitalii Chaika, CEO of ASP Crew Management, on successfully completing his doctoral studies and earning a PhD from the IBR Institute of International Business Relations, Germany, and Kairos University, USA.

In his doctoral research, Vitalii focused on Human Resource aspects within the Maritime Industry. He expresses his gratitude to those at ASP Ships Group who supported him throughout his journey.

New Team Member at Mariner Australia

Mariner Australia has welcomed a new team member to assist with the increased volumes. **Aasha Wigham** commenced with Mariner in June 2024 as a full-time Travel Consultant and Marketing Assistant. She has over eight years of experience in the travel industry, with a strong focus on leisure travel.

Originally from Perth, Aasha has previously worked at Flightcentre and spent time living in Canada.

At Mariner, Aasha will be helping small and medium-sized corporate clients, as well as assisting with holiday bookings for all clients. She is also passionate about social media and will manage Mariner's Facebook and Instagram pages, along with creating the monthly marketing flyers sent to clients.



Capt Surendra Kairo – Marine Manager

Capt Surendra Kairo (Sunny), a seasoned maritime professional, has joined ASP Ship Management Singapore as Marine Manager, assuming the critical role of DPA/CSO for the Singapore-managed fleet as of 12th of December 2024. His extensive experience and leadership make him an asset to the organization.

With over 15 years at sea, including time as a Master on oil and chemical tankers, Sunny has built a strong reputation for operational excellence and regulatory compliance. His shore-based career spans 12 years across key roles at ASP in Singapore, Gulf Stolt in Dubai, and Synergy – Chennai, Singapore, and Jakarta, where he played a pivotal role in ship management, safety frameworks, and fleet optimization.

Holding a Class 1 Certificate of Competency (Master) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and Computer Applications, Sunny brings both academic expertise and hands-on experience to his new role.

A firm advocate for innovation and efficiency in the maritime sector, Sunny has been instrumental in establishing compliance structures, overseeing fleet operations, and mentoring future industry leaders. His deep technical knowledge, strategic mindset, and dedication to safety have earned him the trust of ship owners, charterers, and marine industry stakeholders worldwide.



Capt Subhasis Pandey – Marine Superintendent

We are pleased to introduce Capt Subhasis Pandey, who has been an integral part of our team as Marine Superintendent – Operations & Safety since August 2023.

His seafaring career spans over 18 years, including command on oil/chem and parcel chemical tankers. Subhasis holds a Class 1 Certificate of Competency (Master) and a Bachelor of Science in Nautical Sciences from Mumbai University.

In his current role, he oversees marine operations for the managed fleet of oil and chemical tankers, ensuring safety, compliance, and operational excellence.

We look forward to his continued contributions in enhancing safety, compliance, and operational excellence within our fleet.



Vamsi Potu – Ship Manager

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Vamsi Krishna Potu to the ASP Ship Management Singapore team as Ship Manager for the Singapore-managed fleet, effective August 6, 2024.

Vamsi brings with him over 15 years of sailing experience, having served as Chief Engineer on LPG, oil, and chemical tankers.

He previously worked as a Chief Engineer with Synergy Ship Management before transitioning ashore in 2021 as a Technical Superintendent, managing BWLPG INDIA vessels.

He holds a Class 1 Certificate of Competency (Engineering) and a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering from BITS Pilani. With three years of shore-based technical experience and a solid background in tanker operations, Vamsi adds significant value and expertise to our growing team.



Somnath Chatterjee – Vessel Performance Manager

Mr. Somnath Chatterjee has joined the ASP Ship Management Singapore team as the Vessel Performance Manager on 1st November 2024.

Somnath brings 15 years of invaluable experience in the shipping industry, both at sea and ashore. He has sailed on oil tankers with Kuwait Oil Tanker Company and Anglo-Eastern Ship Management and has gained extensive shore-based expertise in performance management with MAERSK Tankers (Commercial Department) and Columbia Ship Management.

As Fleet Performance Manager at Columbia Ship Management and in his previous role overseeing both dry and wet fleets at MAERSK, Somnath was instrumental in optimizing fuel consumption, enhancing revenue for ship owners, and developing customized performance solutions to improve fleet operations.

Passionate about sustainability and decarbonization in the shipping industry, Somnath looks forward to collaborating with the ASP Singapore Technical Team, Vessel Owners, and stakeholders on current and future initiatives.



My Journey with ASP

Paarth Sharma Chief Officer

My journey with ASP began in 2010 when I embarked on my cadetship through the company's sponsorship program. After successfully completing my training and clearing my exams, I joined as a 3rd Officer. With dedication and the invaluable guidance of my seniors, I steadily climbed the ranks—progressing to 2nd Officer and eventually Chief Officer. Their mentorship and my experiences at sea have played a crucial role in shaping my career.

Over the years, ASP has become more than just a workplace; it has been my second home. The lessons I've learned here have helped me grow both professionally and personally, making me the seafarer I am today.

Coming from an Army background, discipline and organization have always been ingrained in me, and these traits have served me well throughout my career at sea. At ASP, I have further honed these skills, reinforcing my commitment to excellence and continuous learning.

On a personal note, I recently married Taniya, who has been an incredible source of strength and support. She works as a Senior Consultant/Manager at an international data analytics firm, and together, we are embracing this new chapter of our lives.

For a bit of humour—I couldn't help but notice that ASP seemed more eager about my marriage than even my own parents! From the moment they saw me as an "eligible bachelor," there was no shortage of good-humoured encouragement from my colleagues.

Having spent my entire professional career sailing with ASP, I am deeply grateful for the journey so far. It has been an honour to grow alongside such a prestigious company and an incredible team, and I look forward to many more years of learning, adventure, and success.



Carisbrooke & ASP CHALLENGE

In July 2024, Vitalii Chaika had an outstanding experience participating in the 24 Peaks challenge, representing ASP Ships Group as part of the Carisbrooke Shipping Ltd team, one of our long-standing partners. The challenge involved completing 24 peaks across the breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage site in the Lake District over two days, covering a distance of 33 miles and a staggering 13,000 ft of ascent.

This event is The Seafarers' Charity's signature challenge, combining individual endurance and collaborative teamwork in support of its mission to improve seafarers' lives. The team put in a tremendous effort over the two days and successfully raised a significant amount of funds for The Seafarers' Charity.



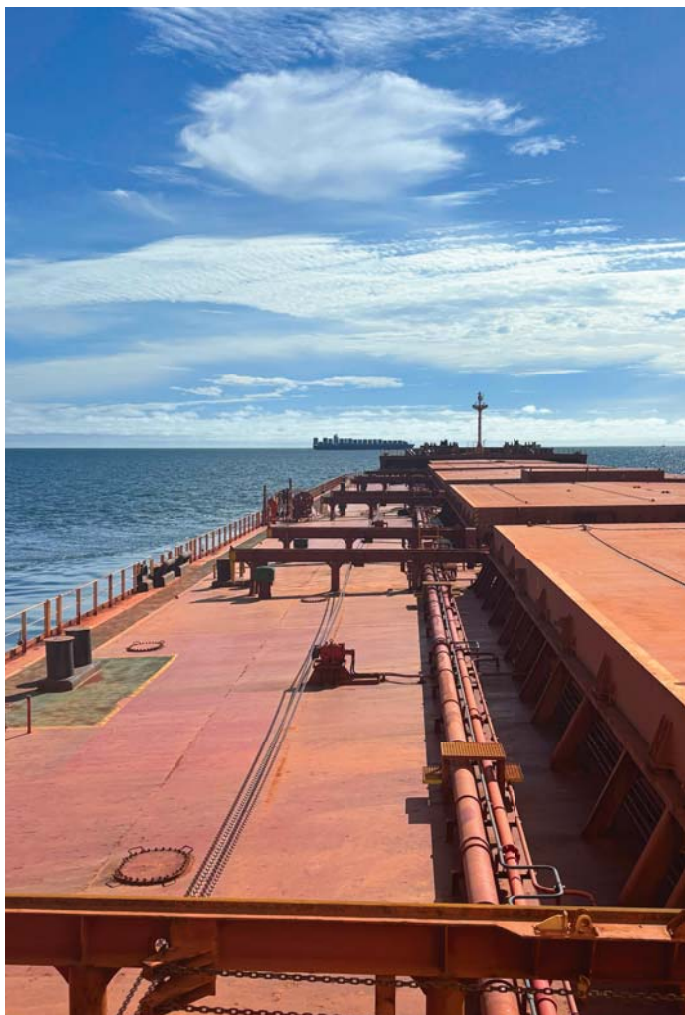
Vitalii Chaika and Carisbrook Teammates.



PHOTO COMPETITION



The ASPECTS photographic competition for an annual prize of \$US500 is for the best photograph received in a calendar year. The competition is open to all crews of the ASP fleet and any family members on-board. Subjects may cover life on-board a working vessel, fellow crew members at work (with their permission), seascapes, docks and ports etc. Photographs of high resolution (approx 2–5 megabytes [mb] or more in file size or 'Superfine' setting on some cameras) are preferred and please send photos from phones in their largest file size, watching out for social media or MMS minimisation. The judges' decision will be final and submissions may be used for future ASPECTS or ASP use. Submit photos via email to: **The Editor, ASPECTS, ASP Ships Group, email: rwalker@aspships.com**



▲ *"Sea Intersection" Cairns*
by Kirk Harris/Operational Caterer RTM Weipa



▲ *Lan Ship, New-built 1200TEU Container* for delivery at PacOcean Shipyard Zhoushan, China in 2025. (Capt Franciss Saron in the photo). Taken by Laura Langh-Lagerlof, MD/Owner.

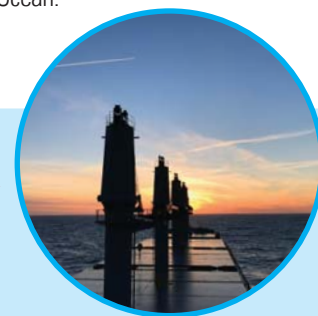


◀ *"Compass Repeater with Rainbow"*
taken on-board MS *Sofia* in the Atlantic Ocean.
By Capt Franciss Saron



WINNER! ▶

Congratulations and \$500USD goes to the winner of the last calendar year entries; Janarthanan Sengottaian, Chief Officer (ASL Leban).





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