

Multitude of Software Solutions

In an effort to squeeze efficiency and costs, particularly in trying economic times, ship and boat owners are increasingly turning to the latest technologies designed to make vessel operations more efficient, safe and cost-effective. Maritime Reporter reports on the latest developments in the Software Solution space.

MESPAS AG offers **mespas R5**, its class-approved fleet management solution that is designed to take ship management a step further. MESPAS, which was started just six years ago by a group of colleagues from Sulzer, offers a concept which is inherently unique in that the company serves as a library for ship information, parts and regulations, with all of its customers tapping into and benefiting from the efficiencies of such an op-

eration. The mespas R5 is designed to be an all-in-one system and covers all major components of modern marine fleet management such as maintenance, procurement and quality management. Unique to the approach is the central server with its database hosted by MESPAS. The database is preset with vessel specific data as well as a whole range of up-to-date generic data (such as documents published by OEMs or certification authori-

ties). For customers, one of the greatest sources of cost savings and increases in efficiency result, however, from outsourcing IT related tasks such as server hosting, providing security, implementing software updates etc.

“We are like a bank,” said Peter Fähr, managing director, during a recent conversation with Maritime Reporter, “in that we don’t own the money (information), we manage it.”

While tapping a common database could be a concern, particularly amongst a business group as traditionally conservative and private as shipping companies, Fähr insists that security of data and information is a paramount concern and effort for MESPAS. Maintaining this database with the most current information is “a huge job, but a huge advantage,” said Fähr, but is a critical element in the company’s mandate to reduce manual work – and costs – for its clients.

Currently MESPAS counts about 50 companies and 450 ships as clients, according to Fähr, with penetration prima-

rily in Europe, Singapore and Hong Kong. He said there is no “typical” MESPAS client, as the company’s ship management solution can be found on everything from OSVs to cruise ships to tankers.

Every technical part or product is stored once only, its source being OEM data. Then each vessel is rebuilt electronically, using these products and parts (e.g. currently more than 615,000 parts). All mespas R5 software modules are directly linked to these parts and products, giving staff onboard and the office onshore at all times an overview of activities across the whole fleet.

The software prompts staff to carry out defined tasks, and as soon as the work is done and recorded, the data is synchronized as part of the standard synchronization schedule of each vessel.

Though thorough, Fähr admits there is still work to do to make the mespas solution all-encompassing.

“We are about 75% there,” he said, indicating that the company is working on



GAC-SMHI recently launched Fleetweb, a Web-based tool enables efficient performance control and fleet management.

RUSTIBUS

- maintaining your values

30

YEARS
1978 - 2008

“..The one with the chain drums...”

DALSEIDE INC
2901 West Sam Houston Pkwy, North
Suite E 325
Houston, TX 77043, USA
Ph. +1 832 203 7170
Fax. +1 832 203 7171
dssinc@rustibus.com
www.rustibus.com

NEEDLE SCALERS

ANGLE DE-SCALERS

WALK BEHIND SCALERS

ROBOTIC SCALERS

NORWAY
ANTWERP
SINGAPORE
HOUSTON

FASSMER

MARINE EQUIPMENT, INC.

GD
Global Davit GmbH
Survival- & Deck Equipment

LIFEBOATS • RESCUEBOATS • DAVIT SYSTEMS

USCG approved rescueboats and davits in stock,
ready for immediate shipment.

MARINE EQUIPMENT, INC.

P.O. Box 73049 • Houston, Texas 77273 USA
Tel: 281-447-8597 • Fax: 281-447-8680
E-mail: marineequipment@att.net

adding new drydocking and crew management modules to the system.

When Canada's Canfornav – a shipping company with 30 vessels operating from the Great Lakes to multiple international ports – needed to simplify its processes, it turned to **ShipDecision**, designed by **Stelvio, Inc.**, which created a virtual command center to securely link each business partner involved in the cargo process. Developed in consultation with ship owners, operators and P&I Clubs, ShipDecision is a web-based system that is designed to integrate all of the critical operations and documents to manage cargo voyages. To ensure that its products are targeted to the end-user's needs, the company "develops software for the sake of business, not for the sake of IT," said Albert Carbone, president and CEO, Stelvio.

In this case, Stelvio's engineers worked directly with Canfornav employees to gain an understanding of their business processes, challenges and needs, listening to the full spectrum of needs of staff in the Operations, Chartering, and Administrative departments.

ShipDecision is also targeted to ship brokers, designed to eliminate the need for brokers to search manually through the thousands of incoming daily emails. The Vessel Position feature of the system examines each incoming message and automatically extracts the critical vessel information such as the name, ownership and tonnage of the vessel; its region and position; and its open date range.

Through a unique algorithm, the system also 'learns' to adapt to various formats of information, so that it can extract the relevant data regardless of the format

in which it is written. The Cargo Order feature of the system makes it easier for brokers to search for cargo orders by lay-can date range; cargo type and quantity; zone and port; and by latest

date.

"Quickly matching the right ship to the right cargo, in the most cost effective manner, is a critical action in the maritime shipping industry," said Carbone. "The feedback we have had from the brokering community is that the Broker Module will make a real difference in day-to-day productivity," he said.

Teledata Marine Solutions (TMS) recently launched ShipManager 7.0, which is designed to provide a platform for Predictive Analysis and Decision Support, and seeks to address the operational needs of Commercial Managers, Technical Managers and Ship Staff. "This product is constructed around four building blocks, namely Technical, Commercial, F&A and Decision Support. The ShipManager 7.0 application work flows are designed to deliver business intelligence to maritime enterprises," said Himanshu Joshi, President – Marine Products, Teledata Marine Solutions.

A unique ship operator can select and use chosen business processes from different modules including Procurement, Crewing, Chartering, Accounting and so on. This approach ensures flexibility of software use with roles and responsibilities.

"We are like a bank," said Peter Föh, managing director, MESPAS, "in that we don't own the money (information), we manage it."



ties.

Besides featuring alerts, notifications and dashboards as integral parts of the product, ShipManager 7.0's interfaces also provide marine managers and ship's crew a direct access to a large number of critical reports in offices and on ships.

Multi Service Corporation — a global provider of billing and payment systems — administers an Internet-based fuel procurement and transaction management solution for the commercial shipping and government marine industries. The Altivis interface is an adaptation of an open market solution developed for U.S. government spot buys. The system connects bunker buyers with a worldwide network of suppliers and maintains a complete transaction trail for contract and spot purchases. As a credit and transaction service provider, Multi Service extends lines of credit to marine organizations, pays the bunker



When it is time to install or update your Vessels Technology... who do you call?



The VNS G-Force can get the job done on time and under budget

- Networking
- Telephone
- Systems
- PA Systems
- Satellite Systems



- CCTV
- Audio Visual
- Fire Alarms
- And More

VNS International
WWW.VNSGEEKFORCE.COM
(877) 271-0114 or (954) 839-8256

sea the world Train at MPT



The Best Choice for Over 25 Years!

AB to MATE Program
STCW Courses
Workboat Courses
Towing Vessel Licenses
Chief Mate/Master Courses
Upgrades to 200/500/1600/3000 Tons
Engineering Courses

Advanced Medical Courses
Simulation Training & Assessments
Able Seaman/RFPNW Courses
All Levels of License Training
Custom Designed Company Based Training
Regulatory Training

A view from the top requires skill, determination & desire. Contact MPT to step up to the next level.



MARITIME PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

1915 S. ANDREWS AVE., FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316
+1.954.525.1014 • www.MPTusa.com • info@MPTusa.com

Call For
Summer
Specials!



Approved For
Veteran's
Training