



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and Eight Classification Societies Sign Letter of Intent to Collaborate on Maritime Digitalisation and Decarbonisation

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and eight internationally recognised classification societies have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to collaborate in the areas of maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation.

2. The LOI was signed during the Accelerating Decarbonisation Conference at Singapore Maritime Week on 27 April 2023 by Teo Eng Dih, Chief Executive of MPA, Christopher J. Wiernicki, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of American Bureau of Shipping, Matthieu de Tugny, President of Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore, Sun Feng, Chairman and President of China Classification Society, Remi Eriksen, Chief Executive Officer of DNV, Lee Hyungchul, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Korean Register, Nick Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, Hiroaki Sakashita, President and Chief Executive Officer of Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK), and Paolo Moretti, Chief Executive Officer of RINA Services S.p.A.

3. Under the LOI, MPA and the eight classification societies will strive to collaborate in areas such as smart and autonomous shipping, cyber security, electrification, and zero- and low-carbon fuels. This will help advance the development of new technologies and solutions, and benefit the global maritime community.

- **Standards and Technical References in Support of Maritime Digitalisation and Decarbonisation, and Compliance with Singapore Requirements:** MPA and the classification societies will strive to work together to develop standards and technical references in the areas of maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation with a focus on meeting Singapore's requirements as a start. This could cover zero or low-carbon marine fuels such as methanol, ammonia and hydrogen, as well as marine electrification.
- **Streamlined Recognition of Singapore Registry of Ships (SRS) and Class Notations:** Currently, the SRS and classification societies have their respective voluntary green, cyber, smart and welfare notations to encourage sustainable shipping and digital transformation. MPA and the respective classification societies will explore the development of a more efficient process for ships that have obtained class notations to apply for and achieve similar SRS notations. MPA will work with the respective classification societies bilaterally on safeguards if necessary.

- **Develop Industry and Workforce Capability:** MPA and the classification societies will strive to work together to enhance future vessel designs for both ocean-going and domestic harbour craft to enhance safety, security and efficiency of new designs. To prepare the maritime workforce to operate increasingly sophisticated vessels, an area of potential collaboration would be to develop new training curriculum for emerging skills relating to digitalisation and decarbonisation.
- **Compliance with Laws and Regulations:** This LOI is governed by Singapore laws. MPA will work with the respective classification societies to ensure that efforts for application in overseas markets adhere to the respective laws and regulations.

4. The eight classification societies are also authorised by MPA as Recognised Organisation¹ to conduct statutory certification, survey, inspection and audit services for Singapore-registered ships.

5. Mr Teo Eng Dih, Chief Executive of MPA, said, “With the rapid changes brought about by decarbonisation and digitalisation, there is a need for collaboration to learn from one another, partner likeminded stakeholders to build capabilities, and accelerate the development and adoption of new technologies. This LOI will pave the way for MPA to work with these eight recognised classification societies to shape standards, and contribute to develop innovative, viable, and cost-effective measures with our trading partners, green and digital shipping corridor partners, and the global maritime community.

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About the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

MPA was established on 2 February 1996 with the mission to develop Singapore as a premier global hub port and international maritime centre, and to advance and safeguard Singapore’s strategic maritime interests. MPA is the driving force behind Singapore’s port and maritime development, taking on the roles of port authority, maritime and port regulator and planner, international maritime centre champion, national maritime representative and a champion of digitalisation and decarbonisation efforts at regional and international fora such as at the International Maritime Organization. MPA partners industry, research community and other agencies to enhance safety, security and environmental protection in our waters, facilitate maritime and port operations and growth, expand the cluster of maritime ancillary services, and develops maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation policies and plans, R&D and manpower development. MPA is responsible for the overall development and growth of the maritime domain and Port of Singapore. In 2022, Singapore remained one of the world’s busiest transshipment hubs with a container throughput of 37.3 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

For more information, please visit <https://www.mpa.gov.sg>

¹ An authorised organisation that performs statutory requirements on behalf of the vessel’s flag state.

About Singapore Maritime Week 2023

SMW is an annual gathering of the international maritime community to advance key industry issues and exchange ideas to bring the sector forward. Driven by MPA, in collaboration with industry stakeholders and research and educational institutions, SMW brings together key opinion leaders and industry leaders through conferences, dialogues and forums.

The range of activities and events organised by MPA, industry stakeholders and research and educational institutions, as well as the cosmopolitan profile of participants, reflect the vibrancy and diversity of Singapore as a global hub port and leading international maritime centre.

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Annex A: Quotes from classification societies

Christopher J. Wiernicki, ABS Chairman, President and CEO

This initiative is a fine example of the collaborative mindset we will need to develop the solutions required for a safer, more sustainable industry in an accelerated timeframe. ABS understands the real future fuel will be a mix of leadership and cooperation. This is a “we” game where success is a team sport. We are proud that our leadership in safety, quality and environmental protection enables us to make a significant contribution.

Matthieu de Tugny, President of Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore

As the world transitions towards low- and zero-carbon energy production, we look forward to working alongside MPA and fellow classification societies to ensure the safe and efficient implementation of such innovative technologies, and to support the industry in upholding high-quality standards in the pursuit of continuous improvement. In doing so, best practices can be established, and the entire industry can reap the benefits of managing the associated risks and safety challenges. At Bureau Veritas we are proud to support pioneering technologies to shape a better and more sustainable maritime world.

Mr Sun Feng, Chairman and President, China Classification Society

As the shipping industry confronts unprecedented challenges in the realms of decarbonisation and digitalisation, the imperative of close collaboration and knowledge exchange within the maritime community has assumed heightened significance. China Classification Society is delighted to partake in research and cooperation with MPA and other classification societies through this platform. In the domains of low-carbon and zero-carbon shipping, intelligent and autonomous vessels, and common standards for cybersecurity and port ecosystems, we possess the capacity and inclination to propel sustainable development and innovation through practical implementation. China Classification Society is equally gratified to lend our professional acumen towards the realisation of a maritime future that is more ecologically conscious, technologically advanced, and secure.

Remi Eriksen, Chief Executive Officer of DNV

We have a long lasting and very constructive cooperation with the Singapore maritime ecosystem and are ready to engage on the development in the next leg of the ambitious journey.

Lee Hyungchul, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Korean Register

The international shipping is facing a new challenge of decarbonization which requires energy transition to carbon-free fuels. In addition, more efficient ships are being developed through the introduction of digitalization technologies such as smart ships and autonomus ships. In line with this, KR is establishing comprehensive GHG compliance center and smart ship platforms with our industry partners as well as the related safety regulations and notations. KR is delighted to have signed the LOI with MPA and believes that this collaboration will promote the safe application of new and innovative technologies for ships ensuring sustainable future for shipping industry.

Nick Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Lloyd’s Register

Collaboration is vital for ensuring that safety is at the centre of our industry’s energy transition and that all stakeholders in the maritime value chain have access to appropriate training and guidelines. This Letter of Intent with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and our

fellow class societies will enable us to work together to address technical and regulatory challenges, marrying global standards creation with national implementation.

Hiroaki Sakashita, President & CEO of Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK)

Cross-industry collaboration is essential for accelerating the green and digital transformations in the maritime sector. The initiative led by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore is significant and anticipated to contribute to advancing the transformations. It is a great honor for ClassNK to be a part of the MPA's collaborative approach as one of recognized organizations for Singapore-flagged ships. Through the LOI signed on this occasion, we are pleased to jointly explore the potential for further collaboration opportunities with esteemed partners in order to support the industry's pursuit of enhanced safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

Mr Paolo Moretti, Chief Executive Officer of RINA Services

We are delighted to be a signatory to this LOI with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and the world leaders in ship classification. We strongly believe in the value of cooperation. It allows the mutual opportunity to incentivize, promote and support the exchange of know-how and experience, contributing to the acceleration of the energy transition. RINA, through its multidisciplinary competence, will make its experience in the field of decarbonisation and digitalization available to all the parties to build the path to an increasingly sustainable maritime industry. We are sure that this is a further step into the development of models that will lead to the achievement of the MPA's decarbonization, safety, digital and efficiency goals.