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Shipping

Growing Ishima is aiming at gas carriers

Salvatore d'Amico: "Having managed the Covid emergency thanks to the support of our crews, we are planning to enter new shipping sectors"



by

Salvatore d'Amico, CEO di Ishima

Francesco Bottino

The Singapore shipping company Ishima, within d'Amico Group, providing services to both the Rome-based company and to third party shipowners is growing, focusing especially on the gas carrier segment.

Ishima CEO Salvatore d'Amico ensured to *Ship2Shore* that "we are open to any type of ship. Our flexibility, combined with the cooperation of all our seafarers – being our most important asset, to whom my thanks goes – allowed us to overcome the difficulties of this emergency without significant repercussions, thus being able to look to the future with optimism".

"Ishima recently obtained the technical management of two tankers (the latest being the unit Clearocean Mathilde) and of 3 livestock carriers belonging to Wellard (Mauro Balzarini's former Australian shipping company, *ed.*). We already managed these units in the past, but we had not been managing them for years. However, we recently took over part of Wellard's team, providing it with a quality service at a competitive price", d'Amico recalled.

Ishima's sound and flexible organization can deal with any type of ship: "At present, d'Amico group manages 70 ships, half of which being owned units, while the other belong to third party shipowners. Ishima manages 45 ships, out of which only 10 belong to the d'Amico group. All the other vessels belong to third party operators relying on Ishima due to its skills and experience. In fact, Ishima boasts a team of extremely qualified professionals coming from various sectors within our industry (gas carriers, oil tankers, chemical tankers, container ships, cruise ships etc...), and this allowed us to acquire the necessary skills to offer our services to any segment within the shipping industry", Cesare d'Amico's son assured.

"We can manage any type of ship, starting from Ishima's most traditional sector, i.e. tankers, followed by bulk carriers, container ships, Wellard's aforementioned 3 livestock carriers and the cruise ship Hamburg. This small ice-classed vessel belongs to the Venice-based company Ligabue, the worldwide leader in the naval catering segment with which d'Amico group has been collaborating for over 50 years".

"We are definitely growing. We are looking for new customers and we are ready to manage any type of ship, although at present we are focusing especially on gas carriers as we plan to enter this segment", Ishima CEO continued.

In fact, Ishima could provide this segment with its technical management services, including also shipyard surveillance for newbuildings: "In the past 7-8 years we provided surveillance for the construction of some 200 newbuildings".

The current crisis related to coronavirus did not stop Ishima's ambitions, although it definitely affected its operations: "As concerns the take-over of the last ship entrusted to our management, i.e. the tanker Clearocean Mathilde, the crew change was pretty complicated, and we had to man the vessel with staff coming from the Far East and from Eastern Europe, instead of our usual Indian personnel", d'Amico explained.

The operation was carried out in Southern Korea which, together with Holland, is one of the few Countries currently providing sure conditions to change crews: "There are special timings to comply with, including 14 days of on-site quarantine before getting onboard. In the long-term, such procedures will not be affordable, but at least during this phase it is essential to have clear and sure guidelines, although many Countries do not have them".