

PRESS RELEASE

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AMVER Awards – Saving Lives at Sea

The International Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Limassol, in cooperation with the Cyprus Shipping Chamber and the Cyprus Union of Shipowners (CUS), and under the auspices of the Shipping Deputy Ministry and the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, organized a ceremony in Limassol on November 7 to recognize Cyprus-based shipping companies participating in the United States Coast Guard's Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue (AMVER) program. The AMVER program helps guide merchant shipping vessels to assist other vessels in distress on the high seas.

AMVER is open to vessels of all flags and nations. Companies participating in this program voluntarily make their ships available as rescue assets in the event of an emergency. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan, indicating their port of departure, port of destination, course, and speed to the AMVER computer center. In an emergency, AMVER receives notification of a vessel, mariner, or aircraft in distress, and locates and informs the nearest participating vessel of the need for immediate assistance, at no cost.

Since its inception in 1958, AMVER has provided 66 years of search and rescue services around the world. In 2023, the U.S. Coast Guard activated the AMVER system for 170 cases, saving 771 lives and assisting another 240 people at sea. The AMVER system had more than 6,345 ships available for search and rescue around the world each day. International cooperation between ships, companies, communication service providers, governments, and search-and-rescue authorities contribute to AMVER's success in protecting lives at sea.

U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Julie Davis Fisher presented the awards on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, recognizing participating mariners and their companies. Ambassador Davis Fisher hailed AMVER as an excellent example of mutual assistance and partnership.

“Cyprus continues to make vital contributions to the AMVER program, and that growing support deserves special recognition,” said Ambassador Davis Fisher. “We know that the vibrant Cypriot shipping sector makes a difference in supporting this life-saving program and delivers valuable contributions to the Cypriot economy. Tonight, we celebrate these collaborative efforts for safety and stability, and for providing urgent assistance to vessels in distress at sea.”

In all, twenty Cyprus-based companies were recognized for enrolling their ships in the AMVER program in 2023 – a total of 310 awards for as many ships, giving Cyprus the fifth-highest count of AMVER awards globally. These Cyprus-based shipping companies are listed alphabetically:

1. Acheon Akti Navigation Company Ltd. (3 awards)
2. Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement (Cyprus) Ltd. (16 awards)
3. Columbia Shipmanagement Ltd. (18 awards)
4. CSM Energy Ltd. (1 award)
5. Donnelly Tanker Management Ltd. (1 award)
6. FML Ship Management (26 awards)
7. Interorient Marine Services (4 awards)
8. Intership Navigation Co. Ltd. (5 awards)
9. Lemissoler Shipmanagement Ltd. (12 awards)
10. LMZ Shipping S.A. (2 awards)
11. Maestro Ship Management Ltd. (1 award)
12. Marlow Navigation Co. Ltd. (2 awards)
13. Mastermind Shipmanagement Ltd. (1 award)
14. MSC Shipmanagement Ltd. (172 awards)
15. Olympia Ocean Carriers Ltd. (2 awards)
16. Safe Bulkers Management Ltd. (28 awards)
17. Samos Steamship (Cyprus) Ltd. (1 award)
18. Star Bulk Shipmanagement Co. (Cyprus) Ltd. (8 awards)
19. Transmed Shipping Co. Ltd. (6 awards)
20. Uniteam Marine Ltd. (1 award)

For more information on the U.S. Coast Guard's unique worldwide search and rescue system, please visit www.AMVER.com.