

# Tanker awards recognise experience and dedication

27 Nov 2019 by Craig Jallal



The *Tanker Shipping & Trade* Awards offer the industry an opportunity to reward those key staff and products in the industry

As tradition dictates, the first day of the *Tanker Shipping & Trade* conference ends with a Gala Dinner followed by the 2019 Awards. The awards are split between products, services, innovations, and people. The two people-orientated awards offer the tanker industry an opportunity to recognise the contribution of a long-serving stakeholder and those whose leadership has garnered praise.

The 2019 recipient of the Industry Leader Award was MF Shipping's chief executive and co-chair Karin Orsel. In introducing the Award, Riviera's head of content Edwin Lampert described how he first met Ms Orsel in Cyprus and was struck by her enthusiasm for the industry. "She is someone who gives her time, her energy and her expertise not because it will benefit her company but because it will benefit the industry," he said

The award to Ms Orsel was presented by Katharina Stanzel. Like Ms Orsel, Ms Stanzel is a leader of a shipping organisation; Ms Orsel is a co-chair of the Dutch Shipowners Association and Ms Stanzel is the manager director of INTERTANKO. Ms Orsel is also a board member of INTERTANKO. "Karin has built MF Shipping from a very young age," said Ms Stanzel. "The fleet has grown from six vessels to over 50, and the number of seafarers from 50 people to over a thousand. I have seen first-hand the warmth her staff have for her and she is hands-on ready to help in anyway. She leads from the front with everything she has got and that is why she deserves this award."

The Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019 was sponsored by Kockumation Group, a long-time provider of cargo-handling products for the tanker industry. The award is made to someone who has made a significant contribution to the tanker industry and Capt. Andrew Cassels certainly ticks that box. He recently retired as chairman of OCIMF to which he was seconded to from BP, where he was vice-president of safety and operational risk. In retirement he is now chairman of the Merchant Navy Welfare Board, an umbrella charity for UK maritime charities. The current head of OCIMF, Robert Drysdale, noted some of the initiatives that had been implemented under Capt. Cassels' watch at OCIMF. These included setting up the SIRE system and being instrumental in the next stage of TMSA. He recalled that Capt. Cassels was a very easy person to work for: "He is very down to earth and has a great sense of humour," said Mr Drysdale.

The Garant Group sponsored the Tanker of the Year Award. The shortlist consisted of **Histria Shipmanagement's *Histria Atlas***, Waterfront Shipping's *Mari Couva* and *Mari Kokako* and the eventual winner, Odfjell's *Bow Orion*.

The Technical Innovation Award went to WE Tech Solutions for its permanent magnet shaft generator, with DNV GL's Nerves of Steel and METIS' maritime efficiency systems as runners up.

Runners up in the Environmental Award category were University of Southampton/Shell Shipping & Maritime's centre for shipping research, EnviroNor's water of demand tanker conversion, and Teekay Tankers quiet tanker initiative. Thome Group's NAU environmental module app took home first prize.

Thome Group also sponsored the Tanker Safety Award, which was won by DNV GL – ITC notation, with Kockumation Group, Ecochlor and OCIMF/INTERTANKO being worthy runners up.

The shortlist for the Tanker Operator of the Year, sponsored by DNV GL, consisted of Maersk Tankers, Euronav and Norden. Maersk Tankers, which has seen its fleet expand significantly and more clients taking advantage of the commercial management the team now offers, took home the award.

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