Case Study

Shell International Trading & Shipping

Navmaster Office Network - Supporting multiple business requirements

Shell International Trading and Shipping (STASCO) purchased a Navmaster Office system in 1999 to provide support to a wide range of business requirements, from emergency response, to business risk management and Project Development. Navmaster is installed on a LAN network, with designated desktop stations located in the relevant business areas.

"STASCO manages, operates and charters a large number of vessels. Effective day-to-day management requires reliable up to date information and one key element has been a supply of traditional charts. Whilst these are unlikely to completely disappear, they require time and effort to maintain up-to-date, are easily mislaid, laborious to locate in a paper chart cabinet and take up a lot of valuable space. All these factors have a cost and value attached. It could take up to two hours to pull out the paper charts needed for assessing a large marine contract (and the charts have to be replaced afterwards).

A PC-based system overcomes the drawbacks of traditional charts, has much to commend itself, and is very cost-effective. Using Navmaster Office, we now maximize our own effort, and use our space and storage to best advantage.

In managing emergencies and pollution exercises a prime requirement is an accurate, up-to-date chart of the relevant area. The ability to display and manipulate this on screen for wider appreciation is a significant bonus. In our Project Development area, we have found that considerable time and effort can be saved; desktop studies and rapid appraisals of potential sites for new business can be rapidly made before deciding whether a site visit is necessary.

Availability and access to deep water, shelter, other users, tides and infrastructure information can all be readily obtained from a brief appraisal of the relevant chart. The ability to zoom in and out from chart to chart along a particular route or coastline is also particularly helpful. Our colleagues in the Civil Engineering disciplines are often impressed with the quantity and quality of information that can be provided directly from a single chart on screen.

One further use of Navmaster is for operational risk assessment where, for new business, we evaluate the practical risks associated with an unfamiliar port or sea area. Navmaster assists us in evaluating the practical risks that attach to our larger marine contracts.

It's reliable, simple and logical to use and has handsomely repaid the investment made."

Captain Peter Gill, Port Development Officer

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