

GREAT CIRCLE SHIPPING AGENCY LIMITED

SALE & PURCHASE Great Circle can assist owners with comprehensive pre-purchase inspections of any vessel they propose to acquire. The company can coordinate all aspects of purchase for a smooth take-over of the new acquisition, in most cases, from the same day! Great Circle has also successfully re-activated some vessels that were laid-up for a long period, and this service can also be offered to owners.

Great Circle can also provide full assistance to owners who wish to dispose of their vessels, either for further trading or for demolition.



NEW BUILDINGS & VESSEL CONVERSIONS

Great Circle has a qualified Project Team headed by a senior Naval Architect. The Project Team was involved in the construction of 5 bulk carriers at a Korean Shipyard for Precious Shipping. This team can offer owners complete service in new building projects, from the initial design stage, through regular on-site supervision, till the delivery of the vessel as per contracted schedules. Great Circle can also offer full assistance in vessel conversions. One of the main projects in this area included the conversion of a tweendecker into a dedicated self-discharging cement carrier.



INVITATION With many years of varied experience and expertise in the ship management field, Great Circle assures total satisfaction to any shipowner, who wishes to maintain his vessels to excellent technical standards, efficient performance, with low down-time and low operating expenses.

Any interested owner is most cordially invited to contact us to discuss this matter further. We will review your current and future requirements and provide you with a comprehensive proposal for Technical Management of your vessels.

Please Contact

J. Mansukhani, Director



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SHIP MANAGEMENT

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Great Circle Shipping Agency Limited ("Great Circle") was set up in 1988 in order to provide Technical Management Services for vessels owned by the Thai owner, Precious Shipping. One department of Great Circle also provided agency and husbandry services for vessels calling at ports in Thailand.

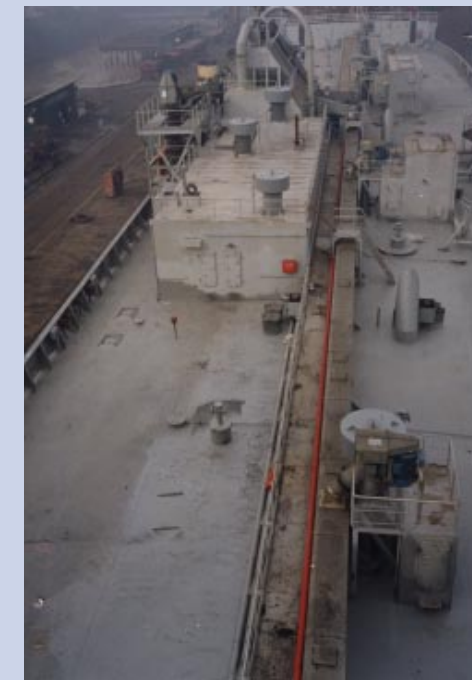
A modest beginning was made in December 1988 with a fleet size of 5 vessels. By 1997, Great Circle was well established, with 56 vessels under their technical management including bulk carriers, tweendeckers, general cargo vessels and specialised vessels like cement carriers and latex tankers.

J. Mansukhani, Director of Great Circle, joined the company on the eve of its formation and has built a close-knit team of professionals who man various key positions in the company.

Great Circle now offers following services to shipowners :



REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE : Great Circle lays great emphasis on high standards in vessel maintenance and this is reflected in the low average downtime for its fleet of 11.5 days per year, including 8.20 days spent in planned dry-docking repairs and Special Surveys. Great Circle runs a Planned Maintenance System for all its vessels such that all the routine repairs/maintenance jobs are done by crew onboard and very minimal work is left to be done by outside workshops or at dry-docks. This helps to reduce the repairs/dry-docking costs.



TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT : Great Circle's technical team consists of technical superintendents who are all graduates from Directorate of Marine Engineering Training, India, and who have sailed on vessels as Chief Engineers prior to taking up assignments ashore. This team maintains close coordination with the vessels and acts as an extension of the shipboard management. The vessels' performance is closely monitored through regular inspections and detailed reporting.



With a large fleet under its management, Great Circle can negotiate lower prices and better terms with suppliers of stores and spares, including paints and lubricating oils. Great Circle also has good relations with shipyards around the world for routine/emergency dockings and ship repair. Owners can benefit from these savings and reduce the overall cost of vessel operations.

Great Circle treats every managed vessel as their own and shipowners will note this personal touch as being different from many of the other shipmanagement companies today, where management is purely a business.

Owners will be provided monthly statements of accounts, quarterly variance reports, and any other accounting or technical reports as may be required.

CREWING : Great Circle presently employs Indian and Thai officers and crew on its vessels. The Indian crew are sourced through in-house manning offices located in Bombay, Calcutta and Chennai, with qualified/experienced Master Mariners in-charge. Great Circle also has a crewing office in Bangkok to recruit Thai officers and crew.

If Owners so desire, Great Circle can arrange for vessels to be manned as per their flag requirements, including 'non-national flag' crew.

The performance of the Officers and Crew are monitored closely by appraisal reports, to maintain the highest efficiency and sound working environment on board the vessels. Great Circle also arranges specialised training for senior officers through various institutions in Bombay. Besides, there is a system of continuous training onboard the vessels.



Most of the officers and crew onboard Great Circle's vessels are on repeat contracts and efforts are made to retain the same team onboard a vessel. This provides better control over the vessels' operations and management, and allows better planning of maintenance and repair activities.

QUALITY SYSTEMS Great Circle is a firm believer in Quality Systems and implemented these in their operations long before it became mandatory. As early as 1995, Great Circle obtained the ISM Document of Compliance. In the same year, the company also set up an Audit team, reporting directly to the top management, to carry out periodic internal audits and also to ensure that at any given time, the vessels are ready for external audits to be conducted by outsiders. In addition, Great Circle has obtained the ISO 9001: 2000 certification.



All the vessels under Great Circle's management had received ISM Safety Management Certificates by 1997, including those vessels requiring certification only in 2002. More importantly, the Audit Team has succeeded over the years to make the Company's Quality and Safety Policy, and Protection of the Environment, to be the paramount working philosophy of the crew onboard the vessels. This is the reason, we believe, why none of the vessels under Great Circle's management were detained in the recent past despite having been subjected to about 200 Port State Control inspections.



RISK MANAGEMENT Great Circle has a qualified and experienced 'Risk Management Team' to assist owners in analysing their risk exposure and making suggestions for managing the same. This team is primarily responsible for placement of insurance to cover all risks including Hull and P&I; besides, the team also handles claims under the various policies and acts as the company's in-house legal advisors. The Risk Management Team has good relations with major insurers in different markets around the world and owners can benefit from the team's services to obtain attractive options to cover their insurance needs and reduce the overall risk exposure to their shipping operations.

