

GEM undergoes Lloyd's Register's Hega review

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Gulf Energy Maritime (GEM) became the first Middle East-based shipping company to undergo Lloyd's Register's Human Element Gap Analysis (Hega) - a review to identify gaps between what a company does and what it aims to do based on industry best practices.

Hega is based on a guide called "The Human Element - Best Practice for Ship Owners" put together by Lloyd's Register Group - the world's most recognised maritime classification society and independent risk management organisation providing risk assessment, risk mitigation services and management systems certification.

"For Gulf Energy Maritime, people have always been an important element of our operations that has seen one of the highest safety records in the industry," said Ahmed Hareb Al Falahi, CEO, GEM.

"Our ships carry one of the world's most precious cargo - refined chemical and energy products, and eventually it is not just the quality of our ships but the systems implemented by our staff that count.

"In this context, Hega's review of our organisation will enable us to set a higher benchmark not just for ourselves but also for the industry in this region."

Established four years ago and headquartered in Dubai, GEM is the Middle East's largest independent, commercial product tanker operator. It is a joint venture partnership between Dubai's Emirates National Oil Company, Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Company, the Oman Oil Company and Thales of France under the UAE Offsets programme.

GEM has built an asset value now standing at \$1.3 billion (Dh4.77bn) with a modern product and chemical tanker fleet.

"Continuous improvement in maritime safety relating to ships' hulls, machinery and essential systems can be limited," said Al Falahi.

"This is why captains of the industry need to ensure that progress is made by focusing on the way that ships are used and, specifically, the people who interact with them."

He said GEM recognises that the key to successful management of the human element is recognising that people are an integral part of the system that makes a ship safe and efficient.

"The Hega review will enable GEM to better plan future activities to improve the safety and effectiveness of its operations," he said.

GEM is also certified by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance to the ISO 9001-2000 Quality Management System and ISO 14001-2004 Environment Management System for the operational and technical management of its fleet.

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