RINA@work

June 2009 Newsletter of the RINA GROUP

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FOCUS

Roberto Cavanna, Managing Director, Certification Division

New buildings today need to be clean and green. And they need to prove it. So RINA has developed certification services for buildings, covering energy certification, plant performance and compliance with technical standards. Our focus is on developing innovative services based on international Green Building methods.

A partnership of Italian regions (Lombardia, Piemonte, Toscana, Puglia), SBC Italia and companies (ITC CNR, Intesa San Paolo, Pirelli RE, ANCE) has agreed the SBC Protocol Sustainable Building Council, and RINA will be the assessment body.

The protocol measures the overall quality of a building. Buildings are assessed throughout their life cycle, from project through to occupation in service. The criteria cover site, resource consumption, environmental impacts, indoor environmental quality, service quality and social and economic aspects.

Visit RINA at the Milano Metropolitan System Area of Expo Italia Real Estate EIRE, at Milano Fiera from 9th to 12th June.

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BUILDING GREEN, BUILDING CLEAN

Energy efficiency, safety, habitability, efficiency as a workspace and overall environmental impact – just some of the factors that a developer of any modern property has to consider. Plus of course compliance with building codes and other legal requirements such as earthquake resistance.

This complex matrix of legal and performance related criteria imposes conflicting demands on architects, engineers, constructors and developers. And everything has to be paid for, so each requirement must be properly evaluated for its economic impact. Which explains why major holders of real estate and property developers increasingly turn to independent third party experts who can measure, verify and cost all the performance aspects of their buildings.

RINA's Certification and Services Division is a valued independent third party certification body for leading property owning companies including Generali Gestione Immobiliare, Investire Immobiliare Sgr, Intesa San Paolo, Warner Village Cinemas and Medusa Cinema.

They use RINA for a range of services covering new and existing building projects. One of the services most in demand is building energy performance certification.

That can be supplemented by plant and energy diagnosis to test the efficiency of the building/plant system and identify improvements and their technical and economic feasibility. The next step is to move towards certification of the building's environmental sustainability, by measuring it against Green Building standards, such as the SBC Protocol.

Compliance with legally binding construction codes and checking that buildings have no negative environmental impacts requires due diligence.

Sadly in the news in Italy is the need to comply with seismic construction regulations, which may require inspection, testing and audit of steel and concrete structures.

To bring as many of these standards as possible together in one place, RINA has worked with CONFEDILIZIA to develop guidelines for the quality certification of buildings. These are the main technical reference point for the association.

Good third party certification brings many benefits for both the property owner and the environment in which the property stands.

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FINAVAL OPTS FOR QUALITY

Giovanni Fagioli, President, FINAVAL S.P.A., Rome, Italy

Being true to your values is vital in times of economic turbulence. One company that has stuck to its values is Rome-based FINAVAL. One of the first shipping companies in the world to opt for voluntary ISO 14001 Environmental Management Certification, it was also a leader in seeking integrated quality assurance and environmental certification.

"We chose to seek third party verification of our activities so that we would be transparent and bring credibility and visibility to our activities," says Giovanni Fagioli, President of FINAVAL. "Over the last ten years we have seen the integration of these two systems bring us substantial advantages, helping us overcome organisational problems and keeping our company solid even in times like these of market crisis."

Today FINAVAL is in good health and it posted strong 2008 results. A year of ship sales and reinvestment left FINAVAL with a healthy profit and a managed fleet of four modern aframax crude tankers, with two on order, at Samsung Heavy Industries shipyard, for 2010 delivery, and eleven product/chemical carriers. That makes it a substantial player in the energy and petrochemical shipping markets, which is also balanced by technical subsidiaries and a coal handling group.

FINAVAL believes that running a prudent company and being well managed is vital to keeping on course in rough times, and also to being able to take advantage of the opportunities such markets throw up. Says Mr Fagioli, "In a historic period such as this, where many will be forced to cut investment, we - thanks to a prudent consolidated management model - will be able to continue with our investment policy which looks to the future without losing sight of the present.

We will therefore not be a bystander, but seek to find advantages against the general trends, with a proactive outlook rather than a reactive one.

The objective of our group is to view this difficult scenario as an opportunity to further strengthen our competitive position and our market share."

Running fleets of modern sister ships will reduce costs for management. But FINAVAL is also keen to ensure that it maintains the highest ethical standards as well. It has recently worked with RINA to be the first in Italy to obtain certification which guarantees the prevention of unethical behaviour. And it will not stop there. FINAVAL is presently working to obtain ISO 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Certification for all personnel on board and ashore.

RINA BUILDS ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE SKILLS

RINA has supplemented its leading position at national level in the services market for accountability, transparency and integrity in business conduct by engaging in extensive information and support activities to promote a fundamental business culture which takes account of Italian legislative decree No 231/01 relating to the definition of organisational and governance structures.

This commitment has led to a number of highly successful initiatives in recent months, beginning with a video interview with the main on-line legal journal in this sector. This was followed by a number of conferences organised by RINA in Venezia and Bari, the latter in partnership with the local Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to these events, RINA's technical staff contributed to other seminars organised by leading institutional figures in Conegliano Veneto and Roma. In particular, the conference organized in May 2009 by the ODV Group (Watch Structures and Compliance Officers Group) of Linkedin in Roma was of great interest, being the first meeting of an important on-line community of experts on this subject.

Moreover, RINA was one of the select sponsors of the '231' event in Milan in 2009 - the first conference of AODV231, the Italian Association of Watch Structures and Compliance Officers.

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COST EFFECTIVE GREEN SHIPS

Shipowners, the authorities and the public want more environmentally friendly ships. But how can that be defined, and how can environmental friendliness be cost effective?

There is no simple answer which covers all ship types, so no simple set of regulations, guidelines or class notations can ensure that every ship is designed and operated to its optimum level of cost effective environmental friendliness.

That is why RINA has developed a new concept, Green Plus, which takes a goal-based approach to combining the efficiency and the reduced environmental impact of any ship. Rather than a set of prescriptive rules, Green Plus sets targets and builds an index, taking into account all the different environmental impacts of the particular ship, and the different ways in which the impacts can be reduced.

The new Green Plus notation allows designers and shipyards to select the most cost-effective combination from various possible design solutions and operational procedures which can be applied to a ship in order to improve its environmental friendliness level and reach the fixed goals.

RINA has recently carried out a study to define a model of an environmentally optimised ship which would minimise both its environmental impacts and its costs. For more information contact:

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KOREAN SHIPBUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The first Korean Shipbuilding Advisory Committee organised by RINA took place in Busan in May. The Committee brings together RINA and some distinguished representatives of the Korean shipbuilding industry. The Committee helps RINA to inform Korean yards of its services and to collect information and recommendations on the needs of the Korean shipyards in relation to ship design and construction, and manufacturing of marine equipment, material and components.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

RINA CONTINUES GROWTH

RINA has reported continuing growth in both turnover and returns for 2008. Turnover for the 2008 year was Euro 183m, up 17 per cent on 2007, and EBITDA was Euro 30 m, up 18 per cent on the 2007 financial year. The growth was based on good performance from all three of RINA's divisions.

GAS CARRIERS FOR TURKISH YARD

Italian company Gas & Heat has ordered four 3,300 cu m LPG carriers to be built at the Turkish shipyard Besiktas Gemi. The ships will be classed by RINA and will be registered under the Italian flag. The contract was signed at the Exposhipping Europort Istanbul International Maritime Exhibition, supported by the Turkish Chamber of Shipping, held at Istanbul EXPO Centre between 25th and 28th March. RINA was able to interact with the strong presence of the Turkish Maritime Cluster at the trade fair.

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ARMANI HOTEL BUILDS ON RINA

Construction has begun on the new Armani Hotel, on the most fashionable block in Milan. Part of the Armani Hotel, Resorts and Residences chain the hotel will reflect the Armani lifestyle and bring hospitality to a new level. Gruppo Emaar Hotel and Resorts has appointed RINA to provide structural construction warranty control.

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COSTA WELCOMES NEW CRUISE GIANTS

The 2,826-passenger luxury cruise vessel "Costa Luminosa", built to RINA class, was delivered to its owner, Costa Cruises, in April this year by Fincantieri Navali Italiani SpA, Marghera. A special inauguration ceremony was held on June 5 to welcome the vessel, and the 3,780 passenger "Costa Pacifica", also built by Fincantieri to RINA class.

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FLORENCE TRAM SYSTEM ON TRACK

The city of Florence is to continue expansion of its new tram system with the support of RINA. Line 2 will run 7 km from the airport to the Piazza della Libertà, and Line 3 will run 3.5 km from Careggi Hospital to Viale del Poggi. Working with RTI and Inarcheck, RINA will provide the city authorities with independent verification of the public works.

RINA Industry Division has considerable experience with managing and overseeing major public and private projects, working on behalf of owners, developers, financiers, insurers and public bodies. Its control functions will help ensure that Florence gets its new transport system on time, and within budget.

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MITSUI COMPLETES D'AMICO SERIES

Japanese shipyard Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding has delivered the 110,000 dwt aframax tanker Mare Nostrum to Rome-based Fratelli d'Amico. It is the final ship in a series of seven. The vessels have the RINA notation COVENT, which covers sufficient ventilation in the case of oil leakage in the ballast tank. With three possible cargo piping segregations and three separate pumps, the Mare Nostrum can handle three different types of oil simultaneously.

The main characteristics are: LOA 245.5 m, beam 42 m, draught 15 m and 15 cargo tanks, totalling 128,100 cu m. It has a two-stroke MITSUI-MAN B&W type 7S60MC diesel engine of 14,280 kW, giving it a service speed of 14.9 knots.

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