

RINA celebrates ties with India on 150th anniversary

Mumbai, 12th April, 2011 - International certification, verification and ship classification company RINA is celebrating its ties with India on its 150th anniversary. Formed in Genoa, Italy, in 1861 as a ship classification society, RINA is today a global multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural company with growing business in India and the surrounding region.

Speaking at a reception to mark the event held at the Leela Kempinski Hotel, Mumbai, today, Mr Ugo Salerno, CEO, RINA, said, “We are very happy to be here in India today, celebrating both our growing relationships with Indian partners and our 150 years of experience and tradition. We share the goals of our partners here, working to build a sound resilient business, respecting people community and environment. We provide experience and competency to support industry and society to improve their activities and the quality of life.”

“We are active in every area of industry, transportation and environmental protection, and we reach out globally to help companies which are also globalising, as so many of you are here in India. We help by bridging the gap in competency for newcomers to the global market place to boost their competitive capacity on the global market.”

In India RINA is happy to work with some very forward looking companies and authorities including for example Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Tata Steel Mines, GMR Airport at Hyderabad, Hotel Leela Palace, Hindustan Zinc Mines and smelters, the Sahara Group, Essar Steel, the Steel Authority of India and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

RINA today works in a multi disciplinary way to service a wide range of industries. RINA is now a well-known certification body in India having certified over 1100 companies in accordance with international certification schemes such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, SA 8000, ISO 27001 and several code of conduct standards.

Group turnover is Euro205m, and RINA employs 1,438 qualified staff. Those staff now represent forty-six different nationalities, and over 60 per cent are graduates. They are close to their clients, in 120 offices in 42 countries, including several new countries during 2010. The first Indian office was opened in 1999 and RINA currently has a workforce of almost 100 staff in India in 13 offices. There are plans to further expand.

The Environment – RINA's priority

Respect for the environment is at the heart of everything that RINA does. It is both a key factor in how the group acts itself, and the vector for a widening range of services around the globe. RINA plans to be a global environmental leader, showing the way by example and helping every industry it works with to think and act more sustainably. Over the last year there has been a rapid expansion of Clean Development Mechanism validation and verification, especially in India, China, Brazil and South-East Asia. At the year-end RINA was active in more than 170 CDM projects on behalf of global companies.

Projects included three gas recovery from landfill schemes in Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia, a bio gas scheme in the Philippines and a river hydro-electric plant in Brazil. RINA India has 92 CDM projects under execution.

RINA worked hard last year on building up its CDM resources in India and training our people. The result was very positive and RINA now has fifteen registered CDM projects in India and the local expertise is helping RINA to expand CDM certification across Asia. There is a dedicated climate change office in Chennai and a track record with major players. RINA expects to see strong growth in the carbon market and will be there to help projects across Asia take part in that quickly, easily and with solid, valid schemes.

Energy management for buildings is also a strong growth area for RINA. A new product, Green Building System delivers an innovative advisory service and certification covering the environmental sustainability of buildings.

The scheme is based on international LEED and ITACA norms and covers not only the energy performance of the building itself but also its site, construction material and resources, the internal environment and its total environmental impact. RINA sees strong demand for this, especially in Brazil, India and China, where all the new development is happening.

Marine

Maritime classification continues to be the backbone of RINA's global activities. Last year classed fleet grew strongly by twenty per cent to 4,175 ships totalling 30.5m gt. The growth came from newbuildings joining the fleet and from Chinese, Indian and Greek owners choosing to transfer modern ships into RINA class. The current fleet is now well diversified with a strong presence in each sector - bulk, dry cargo, tanker, passenger, warships and service craft - and an increasingly global distribution of owners. The lower average age of the fleet, strengthened support services for owners and a relentless focus on quality paid off as the Paris MOU rated RINA the best performing Recognised Organisation and leading classification society based on port state control results.

Recently Fincantieri delivered the INS Deepak, a 21,500 gt fleet tanker built to RINA class for the Indian Navy, and a sister ship was also launched.

RINA India certified a highly reputed maritime training organisation in the Philippines for Tanker Officer Training Standard, a 2010 tanker officer training scheme developed by Intertanko covering class-room activities and simulation of onboard operations.

RINA India also certified a ship recycling yard for ISO 30000 which is comparatively a new standard introducing specific requirement applicable to ship breakers.

Oil, gas and power generation

RINA has a strong focus on energy. RINA works with leading companies at every stage of the energy chain - generating energy, harnessing it from the oceans and elements, transporting it, measuring it and conserving it. Multi-disciplinary teams continued work for Saipem on the supervision of the conversion and classification of the world's first offshore FSRU, the OLT Livorno. Developers with new LNG projects are coming to RINA for feasibility studies because of its experience with OLT Livorno.

RINA is working in all fields of power generation, including clean coal and nuclear and renewable energy activities are increasing. In India, qualification with the authorities and leading contractors led to major contracts for the certification of offshore platforms and for supervision of the construction of an OSV.

Products, personnel, services and processes

Quality management certification is a core business for RINA and, in 2010, more than half of certification was outside Italy. Social Accountability is growing and RINA is now the leader in Europe and second globally in this field. New clients seeking SA8000 certification included Egypt's The Intercultural Company for Agricultural Development, and Italy's Selex Communication.

Infrastructure and Project financing

RINA is active providing due diligence, technical and market support and advice and validation of major projects globally. These include roads, bridges, hospitals and ports.

Transport and logistics

RINA's services to transport are growing and RINA recently entered the aerospace sector for the first time and developed its own railway signalling and onboard equipment testing laboratory. It is a European leader in railway certification and is working with railway equipment manufacturers around the world.

RINA subsidiary Logmarin provides supply chain consultancy services to major projects. It has special expertise in transshipment and the supply of bulk materials, such as coal for coastal power stations, and is in demand around the globe to provide market studies and least cost solutions for bulk handling chains.

Research and development

RINA invests strongly in research and development projects, working in partnership with the EU, leading industry bodies and companies and academic institutions.

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