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D'Amico to pilot RINA's remote vessel inspection technology in response to coronavirus

📅 MARCH 25TH, 2020



JASON JIANG ([HTTPS://SPLASH247.COM/AUTHOR/JASONJ/](https://splash247.com/author/jasonj/))

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The Liberian Registry (LISCR) has approved the use of RINA's remote technology for inspections of Liberian-flagged vessels, and Italian owner d'Amico will use the technology in a pilot case in an effort to tackle vessel inspection challenges brought by the spread of coronavirus.

RINA reckons the development of remote ship inspection has gathered pace as the marine industry adjusts to the constraints placed on people's movements imposed by national governments to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

"The shipping industry is currently facing an unprecedented challenge and shoulders the responsibility of maintaining the flow of international trade during this crisis. To ensure operational continuity, it is vital that we remain flexible and adjust our procedures in a way that protects personnel from exposure to the virus, while also increasing efficiency. RINA's remote inspection technology is proven and robust and facilitates the normal operation of our fleet by making vessel inspection completely accessible during a time when surveyor travel is near impossible," said Alfonso Castellero, COO of LISCR.

RINA anticipates that the decision by LISCR will shortly be followed by other flag administrations.

"For the d'Amico Group, the safety of crews, shore personnel and ship operations is a priority. Shipowners and all operators in the sector are now facing an unprecedented challenge that can only be won by staying united and finding together technologically advanced solutions to protect human life and to ensure the continuity of operations efficiently," commented Salvatore d'Amico, fleet director at d'Amico.

Italian classification society RINA began trialing remote inspections as part of the society's broader digitalisation initiative back in May 2019. The initiative included surveys, but also electronic certificates, fleet performance online monitoring tools, electronic logbooks, virtual reality training and general remote inspection techniques.

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Car carriers park up
Automotive industry faces up to its worst ever crisis

Car carriers from the world over are taking heed of the pessimistic forecasts announced by Wilmot's with a number of the specialised fleet set for the addition.

With the exception of cruise and ferries, no sector of shipping is facing a more rough time from the fallout brought about by coronavirus than the car carrier sector with demand dropping and automobile production on hold across most of the world.

Wilmot's Wilmot's earlier this week detailed what it described as the "downside steps" it's taking to prepare for a challenging time ahead thanks to the spread of Covid-19.

The proposed dividend for 2019 has been withdrawn, up to four vessels will be rechartered, and preparations are being made to place up to 10 vessels in cold lay-up.

"The world has changed dramatically over the past weeks, and we are all feeling the effect. The impact these events will have on the world economy and global supply chains remains unpredictable, but it is increasingly clear that current events will have longer term impacts," said Craig Jermoluk, president and CEO of Wilmot's Wilmot's.

The Oslo-based company reckons its fleet has an overcapacity of 10 to 15 vessels out of already placed orders of charter vessels. This will be solved through a combination of early recycling and cold lay-ups.

Most major automotive producers in Europe, the US, South Korea and Japan have now halted production at the majority of their plants.

"It is not clear whether production will resume after these initial closures. Even if production starts for what's already been announced, the assembly ramp-up phase that follows will cause further issues," market research firm IHS Markit noted in a recent report.

The effect of the outbreak of coronavirus has been described by the European Automobile Manufacturers Association as "unprecedented".

Yves Marek Hultman, director general of the association, said, "It is clear that this is the worst crisis ever to impact the automotive industry."

Morgan Stanley has suggested that autosales in the US could be slashed by up to 90% in year in the next three months.

Other shipping lines are also preparing for reduced car shipments in the coming months. As a result from Japan Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) and the company is being hit hard and is trying to balance supply and demand by reviewing the company's trade patterns and bringing its super slow steaming.

Further car carrier lay-ups are expected around the world in April and May.

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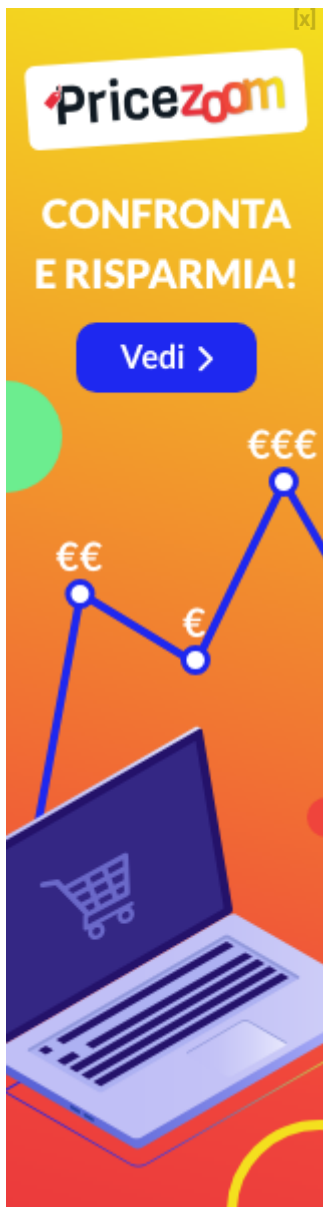
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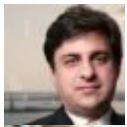
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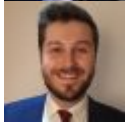
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