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## Fifteenth edition of the “Student Naval Architect Award”

in International Shipping News 11/05/2021



The RINA-d'Amico “Student Naval Architect Award” was awarded last week by the Royal Institution of Naval Architects – a professional international association of naval architects founded in London in 1860 – in partnership with the d'Amico Group to Rebecca Benassi, who recently graduated in Naval Architecture from the University of Genoa.

The award ceremony this year, as in 2020, was carried out remotely due to the pandemic, with the online participation of Chris Boyd, Chief Executive of RINA, Maurizio d'Amico, President of RINA, Francesco Rotundo, d'Amico Group HR Director, Professor Carlo Podenzana and Professor Paola Gualeni, of the Naval Architecture faculty of the University of Genoa, together with all the students.

Rebecca Benassi was granted the Award for a thesis entitled “Study of a combined LNG-electric propulsion system for a ferry”, addressing one of the most significant current themes of research in the naval field: the development of new propulsion systems. In particular, the project focuses on a repowering model for a large ferry, with integrated electrical propulsion of an original design and fully powered by Natural Gas, a clean and economic fuel. Combining the potential of dual-fuel engines and a gas turbine, this propulsion solution guarantees highly efficient conditions at a wide range of ship speeds, allowing reduced fuel consumption and polluting emissions, in accordance with current international regulations on environmental protection.

The “Student Naval Architect Award” is awarded by the Royal Institution of Naval Architects in more than 30 universities all over the world, including the historic University of Genoa, selected for its great tradition and collaboration with the shipping industry.

The historic ties between the d'Amico Group and maritime academia is aimed at shaping the future of shipping together with young people who have received excellent training at international institutions.

With a view to promoting and encouraging exchange of technical and scientific information for the design and building of ships, a partnership has been consolidated over the years between the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, the professional international association of naval architects founded in London in 1860, and the Naval Architecture Department of the University of Genoa (DITEN).

During the event the Chief Executive of RINA, Chris Boyd, welcomed a University of Genoa student to the organisation, who will represent the student body and actively participate in the



life and activities of the Royal Institution. The opportunity to provide a "student representative" is granted to five universities worldwide.

"The Royal Institution of Naval Architects would like to thank the University of Genoa, Department of Naval Architecture for their warm welcome and kind invitation to attend this year's award ceremony" declared Chris Boyd, Chief Executive of RINA. "We recognize this prestigious event, and it is a significant achievement for many students who are now making their own steps within industry and or further academia. It was my pleasure to support Professor Gualeni, Professor Podenzana and all staff and celebrate the excellent work carried out by the University. It's a privilege to work with d'Amico Società di Navigazione SpA and we proudly presented the RINA 2020 d'Amico student naval architect award to Rebecca Benassi. I thoroughly enjoyed presenting our future vision and discuss innovation disrupters/enablers primarily focusing on sustainability and the targets we must reach regarding carbon zero and EEXI. Furthermore, we have many initiatives and we welcome Alessia Fazzolari onboard as our most recent Student Champion and ambassador in Genoa. The student champion enables students to connect with the Institution, Genoa branch and the international membership to provide a platform for networking and a source for information. We wish Alessia Fazzolari success and offer my full support and we look forward to 2021+ working together."

On the same occasion, homage was paid to Lucio Bonaso, who recently passed away and who had been Top Manager at the d'Amico Group for over 20 years, heading the Dry Cargo division. Mr Bonaso graduated in 1973 as a Naval and Mechanical Engineer at the University of Genoa and has always maintained close ties with the university through a strong collaborative relationship.

"Recognising and realising talent to its full potential is of strategic importance in order to interpret new challenges in the market and its continuous transformation, and to achieve new objectives. The d'Amico Group has always been committed to promoting training pathways for young students who, through their interest and passion, build the foundations of what will become their professional experience in the shipping sector. Today we are delighted to reward Rebecca Benassi who, in her thesis, addresses a frontier issue for research in the naval field: developing technological solutions that will have a decisive impact on reducing emissions and therefore on strengthening the contribution that shipping companies will also make to the imperative issue of ecological transition" – Francesco Rotundo, Group HR Director of d'Amico Società di Navigazione.


### **d'Amico Group**

d'Amico Società di Navigazione S.p.A. is the holding company of a global leading group in naval shipping, active in the dry cargo and tankers sectors and in the provision of services that are instrumental to naval activities. The d'Amico Group has a long and historical family entrepreneurial tradition dating back to 1936, developing its position on the global market over the years, with offices in the most important merchant shipping ports.

The d'Amico Group is committed to being at the forefront of supporting training projects, cooperating with education and academic institutions. Education and professional development of its human resources, who are constantly encouraged towards professional growth, are among the most important values for the d'Amico Group. Furthermore, through funding various educational projects at various levels, the company assists students in accessing opportunities to begin a successful career and pursue their chosen field.

### **Royal Institution of Naval Architects**

Founded in 1860 in London to "advance the art and science of ship design" today the Royal



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SUPRAMAX	▲
ULTRAMAX	▲
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LR2	
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Institution of Naval Architects is a world renowned and highly respected international professional institution and learned society whose members are involved at all levels in the design, construction, maintenance and operation of all marine vessels and structures. The Institution has members in over ninety countries, and is widely represented in industry, universities and colleges, and maritime organisations worldwide.

Source: Royal Institution of Naval Architects

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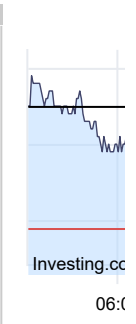


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