ECDIS TRAINING

It was announced from Singapore at the beginning of November that ClassNK had issued its first Type Specific Training Course approval for an ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information System) Training Course offered by the FURUNO INS Training Centre in the City. This approval, which coincides with the grand opening of the new training centre, certifies that the course offered complies with the leading classification society’s new Standard for Maritime Education & Training.

New requirements for the installation of ECDIS will be phased in from 1st July 2012, after which vessels will be required to navigate using ECDIS as their primary chart system. As part of this process, masters and deck officers will be required to undergo adequate training and prove their understanding and proficiency in using the new systems.

In addition to the generic ECDIS training required by the STCW Convention and Code, the governments of the UK and Ireland, as well as the Paris MOU states, require masters and all deck officers on flag vessels which make use of ECDIS as their primary means of navigation to undergo Type Specific ECDIS training for the ECDIS systems used onboard their vessels.

In recognition of the growing demand for not only rigorous generic ECDIS training courses, but also high quality training programmes for individual ECDIS, ClassNK has developed new certification standards for Type Specific ECDIS training programmes, that it hopes will become a de facto standard for the industry.

ClassNK Executive Vice President Koichi Fujiwara, who has directly overseen ClassNK’s expansion into maritime training certification, said, “With the increasing level of technology used for navigation and ship operation, as well as growing regulation of seafarers, there is an incredible demand throughout the industry for higher quality seafarer training programmes. By developing new standards for maritime training, and working with training centres to meet these new standards, we hope to positively address these needs, and contribute to a safer future for our entire industry.”

In addition to certification for both generic and Type Specific ECDIS training, ClassNK is also developing a full range of certification services for maritime education and training programmes, as well as certification and training programs for instructors of such courses.