MARAD FACT SHEET

Ship Operations Cooperative Program

America's Advocate for the Maritime Industry

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Strategic Objective: Assure that sufficient sealift capability and intermodal transportation infrastructure exists to support vital homeland and national security interests.

Vision: To work in partnership to solve common ship operations problems and to develop products to satisfy the common needs of the members.

Mission: The Ship Operations Cooperative Program (SOCP) is a membership organization comprised of U.S. based ship operators, ship managers, maritime training and educational institutions, maritime labor, maritime product and service suppliers, government and other maritime organizations.

Responsibilities: The SOCP advances an agenda of projects, initiatives and dialogue in four primary areas

- Industry Improvement Projects
- Facilitation of Dialogue on Industry and Regulatory Issues
- Product/Technology Testing and Evaluation
- SOCP Product Development

SOCP members benefits include:

- Opportunities to conduct high priority ship operations improvement projects at a fraction of the cost of conducting independent projects.
- A vehicle by which U.S. based maritime organizations can work together to solve common problems relating to vessel operations.
- Membership with a cost-shared industry-wide research and development program not economically feasible on an individual basis.
- Opportunities to explore new technologies using the combined resources of private industry, labor and government working together.

- The strength of a united consortium when making recommendations to state, federal, and international regulatory organizations.
- Share in the results of onboard evaluations of new products and services.
- Timely sharing and dissemination of maritime news, regulations and information.
- Better access to maritime regulatory agencies.

SOCP projects and initiatives include, but are not limited to:

Mariner Administrative Card (MAC) — A mechanism to facilitate tracking of mariner training and certifications, expediting shipboard mariner sign-on/sign-off and the improved security for both ships and port facilities. With the support from other interested organizations, SOCP is working with its maritime industry partners to evaluate smart card and other digital media technologies to consider potential applications that would add value to the maritime industry.

Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) — A collaborative effort that assists member organizations in complying with the 1995 revisions to the International Convention on STCW. Projects include the development of training recordkeeping standards, production of training videos and CD-ROMS, use of non-traditional training methods, evaluation of PC based training simulators and the development of a training resources database.

Marine Licensing and Documentation Initiative — The SOCP provides support to the U.S. Coast Guard through a working group tasked with reviewing and developing a plan for re-engineering the current Marine Licensing and Documentation program process to meet current and future demands. The U.S. Coast Guard's National Maritime Center and the SOCP are working to improve customer service and achieve consistency through technology and measures of efficiency.

Other projects and initiatives include:

- Ballast Water Management
- Drug Testing Issues
- Mariner Recruitment
- Maritime Workstation and Paperless System
- Mariner Training Video Productions.

Visit the SOCP's website at www.socp.org