

For Seaways June 2010

The Nautical Institute launches human element vodcasts

The Institute has launched a bold initiative to raise awareness of human element issues to an estimated 500,000 international students involved in every sector of the shipping industry.

The 21 core subjects featured in the *Alert! Human Element Bulletins* will be made available as vodcasts online for free on the Alert! website www.he-alert.org. The announcement of the new resource for all in the industry from cadets to those in the commercial or regulatory sectors was made at Posidonia, the major shipping exhibition, in Greece.

The initiative is sponsored by The Lloyd's Register Educational Trust (The LRET). Over the next two years the vodcasts (video podcasts/shareable video clips) library will be built up.

They will be available for students and lecturers to use to share knowledge of some of the key human element issues that affect shipping including fatigue, communication, health and safety. They feature real shipboard environments that demonstrate best practice and evaluate disasters, each of the issues are addressed in a three minute, high quality educational vodcast.

The free vodcasts can be viewed online, downloaded to computers, or to a portable device such as a mobile phone or iPod. This will enhance effective viewing and sharing by students around the world. Lecturers from all sectors of the shipping industry will also benefit from importing the vodcasts into their PowerPoint presentations for improved teaching impact.

The Institute's Director of Projects, David Patraiko, stressed the importance of educating a whole generation of maritime professionals as to the importance of the human element to improve not only safety, but also commercial effectiveness. Only when ships, systems, and regulations are designed, taking into account the human element, will they perform as intended. "It is of vital importance that the future decision makers of our industry, most of whom may never have the opportunity to visit or even sail on a ship, understand these implications and how to address them," he said.

David Moorhouse, Chairman of The LRET, commented that The LRET was "very keen" to disseminate further the key messages that have been covered in Alert! "We also want to encourage the very best use of modern technology to connect with today's students in order to promote the critical role they will play in the future of the shipping industry", he said.