

"We chose Task Assistant because it is very flexible and could be tailored to BP's requirements. It gives us the underlying network of infrastructure for continuous improvement, incorporating our entire operational and quality management system. It facilitates control of our fleet, with instant access to information across all areas of fleet and office. It is user friendly and cost efficient, saving us administrative costs."

CAPT MARTIN SHAW
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF



Task Assistant will be rolled out to the BP Shipping fleet as each newbuilding enters service.

TASK ASSISTANT APPLICATION

BP Shipping



BP Shipping faced the challenge of re-engineering its systems to support the doubling of its fleet in just three years. Task Assistant was part of the solution.

Already one of the largest oil major direct operations and soon set to double its fleet, BP Shipping operates 24 tankers transporting 160 million tonnes of crude oil each year, plus product carriers and liquefied natural gas tankers.

With the planned expansion, the company was facing the real challenge of maintaining its commitment to excellence in all of its operations. There were specific issues of documentation control, regulatory compliance, and risk management:

- The integration of information systems inherited through recent mergers
- Maintaining effective corporate policies and procedures
- Implementing new international regulations impacting every level of operations
- Managing risk at the operations level

After a thorough survey of marine and other relevant industry software, BP Shipping selected Ulysses Systems to develop a solution that addressed its requirements and delivered real benefits to shore and ship operations. Task Assistant's task-driven architecture, intuitive user interface and its maritime pedigree were deciding factors, together with its clear commercial, operational and implementation benefits:

- **Faster and better quality decision-making:** Task Assistant provides timely and relevant information to each user at the point of need, consolidated from all sources relevant to their task and role.
- **Improved communications:** Task Assistant gathers and distributes information to those who need it, when they need it.
- **Better documentation and reporting:** BP wanted to avoid the situation where highly trained staff were spending more time on administration than running the ship. Now new document releases and change requests are easily distributed to all staff, organized by their relevant task and role. New regulatory forms are integrated into Task Assistant and as much as possible of the needed information is completed automatically by the system, relieving seafarers of unnecessary administrative burdens.
- **Simpler compliance procedures:** Task Assistant's dedicated auditing facility reduces audit time and preparation costs.
- **Better use of databases and software applications:** Task Assistant integrates existing data and software tools, providing users with direct access relevant to their current task.
- **Automating information storage:** Task Assistant reduces physical filing, delivering savings on staff time and hard copy printing resources. With Task Assistant, BP Shipping will reduce

task assistantTM

the physical filing onboard each ship from an average 26 to 6 cabinets.

- Smooth implementation: Task Assistant adapts to existing procedures.
- A system that grows with the organisation: Task Assistant is fully scaleable to keep pace with growth, without heavy costs or loss of investment.
- Quick familiarisation of new staff: Task Assistant's user-friendly design and intuitive information retrieval requires minimum training for new staff.

Task Assistant benefits to BP Shipping

A focus of the Task Assistant implementation for BP Shipping was the work and rest period reporting requirements of new international regulations STWC 95 and ILO 180. A joint working group was set up that sought interpretation from the International Maritime Organisation and the Chamber of Shipping. A simple solution was developed that linked effortlessly with Task Assistant procedures.

It is commonly accepted within shipping circles that up to 80% of accidents and incidents are caused by human error. BP Shipping expects to see a reduction in this risk area as Task Assistant supports operations staff with easily accessible, up to date procedures related to the specific task in hand.

With Task Assistant, information is always up to date. Previously at BP, manual updates were performed once every six months, limited by the printing and distribution of the bulky documents. Now, using electronic distribution methods, updates can be performed instantly, fleet-wide, at all times. The ability to access information instantly over an entire fleet of vessels and to analyse it in any office has given BP a substantial competitive edge. Potential problems can be identified quickly and risks to safety and the environment avoided, while maintaining profitability.

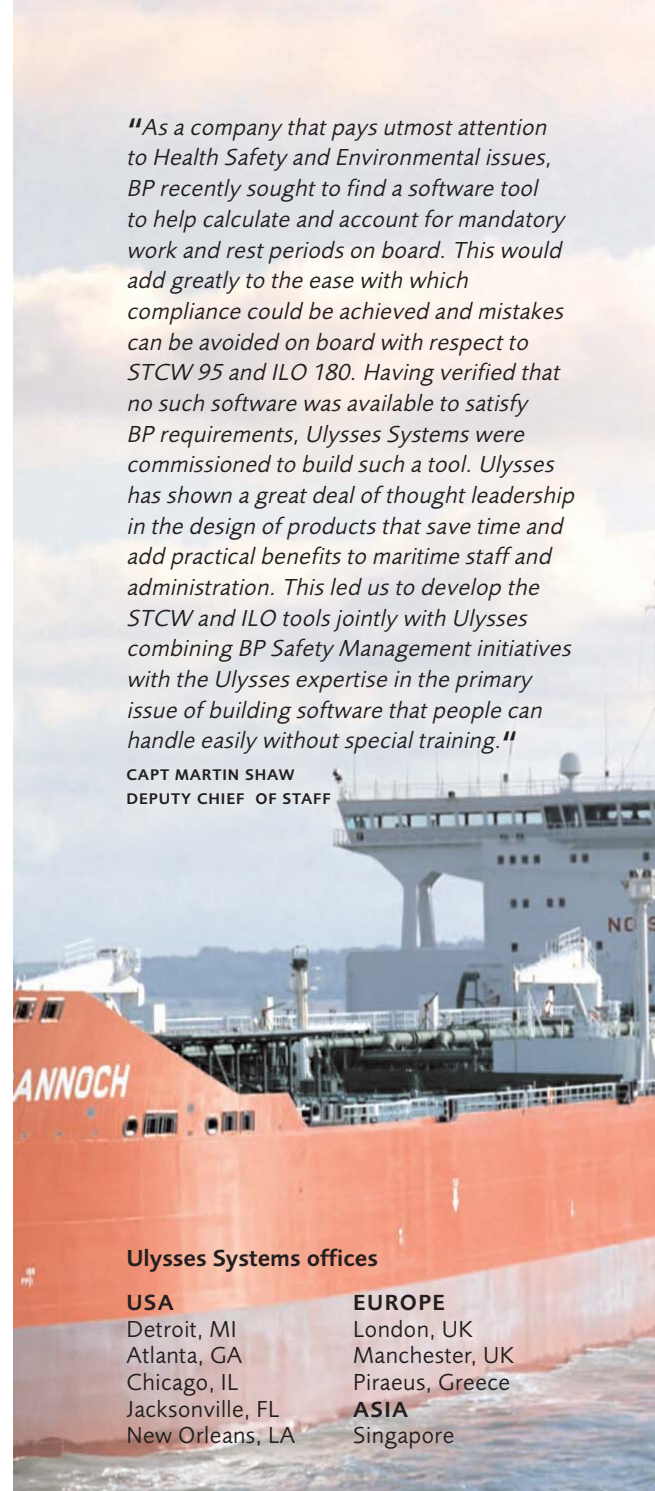


Task Assistant is developed and supported by Ulysses Systems, a leading provider of innovative business intelligence solutions to the maritime and other industries. Ulysses provides solutions based upon advanced telecommunications and information systems technologies that help people work intuitively without special software training. Ulysses' product design has at its core an understanding of how human beings perceive and process information, delivering systems that work the way people do and making information processing fundamentally more efficient.

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"As a company that pays utmost attention to Health Safety and Environmental issues, BP recently sought to find a software tool to help calculate and account for mandatory work and rest periods on board. This would add greatly to the ease with which compliance could be achieved and mistakes can be avoided on board with respect to STCW 95 and ILO 180. Having verified that no such software was available to satisfy BP requirements, Ulysses Systems were commissioned to build such a tool. Ulysses has shown a great deal of thought leadership in the design of products that save time and add practical benefits to maritime staff and administration. This led us to develop the STCW and ILO tools jointly with Ulysses combining BP Safety Management initiatives with the Ulysses expertise in the primary issue of building software that people can handle easily without special training."

CAPT MARTIN SHAW
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF



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Singapore



WINNER: SEATRADER AWARDS FOR INNOVATION 2000

Task Assistant – an innovative project which will significantly improve the efficiency of ship operations.



WINNER: CITIS AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN MARITIME IT, 2000

Task Assistant – the innovative IT product which has made the most significant contribution to improving ship operation.

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