Helping Our Customers Win

Q&A with Smarty Mathew John
Vice President, ABS

The American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) is the world’s second largest class society, with a classed fleet of over 12,000 commercial vessels and offshore facilities. Founded in 1862, ABS is based on Houston, Texas and has 5,500 employees.

From its 200 offices in 70 countries around the world, ABS’s network of surveyors, engineers, technical specialists and support staff provides traditional classification services as well as innovative digital products developed by ABS Digital Solutions such as ABS My Digital Fleet™.

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What challenges were you looking to address with Lloyd’s List Intelligence solutions?

The maritime industry requires a single source of real-time fleet information for making daily operations efficient. Access to reliable and timely insight into the location of all vessels, integrated with weather data and other key indicators, is essential for both crew onboard the vessels and shoreside decision-makers as they manage a complex range of operational objectives, including voyage optimisation, navigational safety, decarbonisation, commercial performance and overall asset risk management.

The ABS My Digital Fleet™ addresses this requirement by providing a customizable risk management platform that seamlessly integrates data to provide real-time insights for driving sustainable operations and reducing operational risk. This all in one, unified platform acts as a shared solution for stakeholders across the maritime value chain, specifically shipowners, ship managers and charterers.

Lloyd’s List Intelligence data is used within ABS My Digital Fleet™ for its advanced analytics. When users access ABS My Digital Fleet™, their interface presents the global fleet map. This view integrates AIS data feeds that are automatically refreshed to provide near real-time location, navigational status, and historical position data.
What were the most important features and capabilities that you were looking for?

Integration is a critical requirement for the ABS My Digital Fleet™ platform. The flexibility of Lloyd’s List Intelligence APIs enabled ABS to seamlessly integrate vessel tracking data onto the platform in a scalable way, providing end users with a wealth of tracking data, and further apply advanced analytics to provide operational insights that support clients with daily decisions.

Lloyd’s List Intelligence data provides completeness and ABS opted to use the vessel tracking data as a core functionality because it provides such a comprehensive data set of vessel movements and characteristics – on a global, real-time basis for both onshore personnel and crew.

How would you describe the impact to your customers?

ABS My Digital Fleet™ uses Lloyd’s List Intelligence location data to provide operational and environmental insights. Users can access the most accurate maritime data available, including vessel movements, vessel characteristics and historical movements, as well as information on 7,800 ports across 208 countries.

In addition, because of the integration with the Lloyd’s List Intelligence vessel tracking data service, ABS My Digital Fleet™ has access to 500+ Lloyd’s Agents and their sub-agents. This enables our customers access to 1,100 ports in 170 countries, along with contributions from trusted third parties such as local coastguards and other coastal agencies, classification societies, port state MOU, customs authorities, ship brokers, insurance companies, governments, and P&I Clubs.

Historical and current vessel position data is a foundational data source for supporting ABS clients. Using Lloyd’s list intelligence vessel tracking data APIs, ABS My Digital Fleet™ is able to overlay the most up-to-date, vessel position data on the map and display historical voyage tracks. This allows for enhanced analysis and provides insights for vessel route planning and tracking, sustainable shipping, and reduces operational risks.

To find out more about how our services can help your business win please contact us on.

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