

# ADDRESSING MARINE CHALLENGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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**From FPSOs to semi-submersibles and fixed platforms and from drilling to fabrication, transportation and installation, the challenging oil and gas price environment has made it more important than ever for Middle East operators and contractors to not only protect their offshore marine assets, but also ensure optimal efficiencies in everything they do.**

This requires partners that deliver new, value-added services and technical innovations and foster long-term relationships to help improve operations, mitigate risk and have a positive effect on the bottom line. All this must also take place against the backdrop of the highest safety standards.

It's against this context that Global Maritime Consultancy & Engineering is playing a key role in addressing shipping and marine challenges across the Middle East.

Founded in 1979, Global Maritime specialises in marine warranty, dynamic positioning and engineering activities in the offshore and marine sectors. Its services span the entire offshore project lifecycle from engineering & design, construction and third party verification through to marine warranty surveying (MWS), dynamic positioning, installation, risk management and decommissioning.

With safety, efficiency and cost all key drivers for Middle East operators and contractors, Global Maritime and its teams of structural and marine engineers, naval architects, master mariners and risk analysts will partner a client through each stage of an asset's lifecycle.

Global Maritime has a major presence in the Middle East, extending from Egypt and the east coast of Africa to the west coast of India. Today Global Maritime's Middle East regional headquarters in Abu Dhabi has a staff of 30, with outreach offices in Qatar and Egypt. The company is also rapidly developing its caseload in Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

So how is Global Maritime addressing the Middle East's shipping and marine challenges?

## Marine warranty surveying

One key area is in marine warranty surveying (MWS) where Global Maritime works on behalf of many Middle East oil majors and for the insured or insurers to provide warranties for offshore construction projects. Global Maritime is also a member of the Marine Warranties Surveyors Society.

Through managing risk for the insured and insurers and through providing marine and engineering expertise to verify that a project's plans, construction requirements and offshore activities are acceptable, Global Maritime is ensuring that many offshore construction projects go ahead safely and on time. As of now, Global Maritime's Abu Dhabi office has nine naval structural engineers, providing vital engineering expertise in areas such as jacking locations



and jack up rigs and also in mooring, transportation and installation analyses where they use bespoke industry software.

One example is a relationship Global Maritime has with a leading Middle Eastern operator - providing MWS for a high-profile offshore concession. In this case, Global Maritime has been involved with all offshore stages of the field's development over the last decade with other activities including vessel surveys, third party document reviews and the issuing of Certificates of Approval for marine operations.

## Dynamic positioning innovations

Another area of technology innovation that is gaining increasing prominence in the Middle

East is that of Dynamic Positioning (DP).

While jack-ups, moored drilling units, pipe lay and construction barges were previously limited in their areas of operation, DP Assurance and DP engineering solutions developed by companies such as Global Maritime - have enabled Middle East operators to lay, construct, drill and produce in all conditions including the shallow waters of the Arabian Gulf.

This has also led to a growth in floating rigs and construction, installation and supporting DP vessels, all increasing efficiencies and having a direct impact on the bottom line.

## Eagle Lyon Pope

In response to operator demands for added value, Global Maritime has also re-launched Eagle Lyon Pope (ELP), its ports and shipping, marine casualty investigation and loss adjusting division. The new division will be based out of London with other offices in Hamburg, Oslo, Houston, Singapore and Abu Dhabi.

ELP will be supported by Global Maritime's extensive resources, including mariners, engineers and other professional personnel, and will provide a broad variety of operations.

These include ports and shipping that will focus on ensuring that all Middle East offshore companies meet safe return to report requirements and regulations; marine casualty investigations where ELP will provide a global response service in investigating the cause, nature and extent of damage due to marine collisions, groundings, pollution and other incidents; and loss adjusting where ELP will provide a team of experienced loss adjusters that cover energy and marine claims, cargo claims schemes, damage to ports, terminals, handling equipment and stevedore's liability losses.

A key differentiator for ELP will also be its partnership with emergency response provider Northcott Global Solutions (NGS) in offering a 24-by-7, 365 days a year emergency and multi-lingual hotline for all Middle East customers. This will lead to immediate responses to casualties and incidents wherever they occur in the world.