

ABS marks safety milestone and opening of new HQ

The beginning of 2019 has seen a great start for ABS, with the classification society reaching a two-year safety milestone and the official opening of new global headquarters.

ABS has recorded zero lost time work-related incidents for the second year in a row. The Lost Time Incident Rate (LTIR) has remained at 0.00 throughout 2017 and 2018, underscoring ABS' safety performance.

"Safety is the foundation of all we do and our record of two consecutive years without a lost-time injury stands as a remarkable achievement," said ABS Chairman, President and CEO, Christopher J. Wiernicki.

"Our safety record has been compiled on countless ships, offshore facilities, shipyards and industrial sites globally, all with varying safety regimes in place. This means, first and foremost, that safety is not

conditional to where we are, but integral to who we are. Our safety culture is woven into the fabric of life and work at ABS and, because of that, our employees truly are safe everywhere—living proof that, for us, every day is safety day."

Adam Moilanen, Corporate Vice President, HSQE said: "ABS has an ongoing safety excellence programme which incorporates strong occupational health and safety processes and policies, including its 10 Life Safety Rules, which includes its Stop Work Obligation authorizing all employees to intervene if safety is in question in any aspect of their work."

"We are committed to continually investing in our safety culture and to empowering our colleagues to recognise and control hazards in the work environment to keep ABS at the forefront of safety excellence," said Mr Wiernicki.

In early January ABS held its official ribbon-cutting ceremony, formally opening its new global headquarters in Spring, Texas.

"This is a significant milestone in our 157-year history and reaffirms our commitment to provide industry-leading safety and practical technology solutions for marine and offshore industry challenges," said Mr Wiernicki.

"A five-year journey that started as an idea has now culminated in a building reflecting our leadership position and our continued vision for growth. Our building provides open and inviting spaces where we gather with industry partners to collaborate and engage in advancing innovation to directly support our safety mission."

The state-of-the-art global headquarters visibly represents the industry's data-driven sustainability journey, as it is home to the ABS cyber and digital laboratories. These technology acceleration centres bring together employees, clients, industry and academia to develop, test and apply smart technology solutions, which enable informed decisions in the face of fast-moving environmental requirements.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Mr Wiernicki received a declaration from US Congressman (R-TX) Kevin Brady, and a proclamation from Harris County Commissioner Precinct Four, R. Jack Cagle, acknowledging the ABS investment in the community. Mr Wiernicki further thanked the teams that were instrumental in the development of the project over the last 18 months, Cushman & Wakefield, Patrinely, Coventry and USAA, and recognized the support from J.J. Hollie of the Woodlands Chamber of Commerce.

Tim Relyea, Executive Vice Chairman of Cushman Wakefield, said: "From the very beginning, ABS was clear in its vision to have an energy-efficient building located among a modern, high-quality amenity base, including hotels, restaurants, and fitness facilities so their employees have the best workplace solution in and around Houston."

"It has been an honour working with ABS to bring this transformational building to fruition," said Dean Patrinely, Managing Principal of Patrinely Group. "ABS is a first mover and we are proud to have you as a leader in our development. Your presence sets the pace, bringing technology and innovation to CityPlace and further establishing it as a destination for modern, industry-leading companies."

The new world headquarters is a 10-storey, 326,800sq ft building housing employees from ABS and its affiliated companies. ●

