

FUTURE TRENDS FOR CONTAINERSHIPS

Shipowners are looking to build cutting-edge vessels that incorporate the latest in technology while anticipating future trends that could impact the market. As owners and operators look at operational efficiencies and regulatory compliance, focus on designs has shifted toward optimization of route-specific profiles. When developing future containership concepts, owners need to assess a number of factors:

- **Energy management** – In order to maximize energy efficiency, owners should take a holistic approach to energy management that aligns energy-saving designs and operational practices in a systematic fashion.
- **Building for current and future service speed** – Ten years ago, market trends required vessels to operate at maximum speed to cut transit time. Today's trend in the market calls for slow steaming to save on fuel costs combined with schedule reliability. A versatile vessel able to adjust operations for market conditions is a necessity.
- **Environmental regulations** – ABS provides owners and operators with reliable advice and confidence in an ever-changing regulatory environment. Emissions controls, ballast water, biofouling and acoustics regulations are changing; the vessel owner looking to the future must be prepared to design a vessel that anticipates future regulatory scrutiny to minimize long-term cost.

- **Gas as fuel** – As LNG bunkering infrastructure develops, more opportunities will exist for LNG as a fuel in global trade. The containership market is well-positioned to take advantage of this future trend due to the regularity of trade patterns. The world's first LNG-powered containership has been ordered and has been classed by ABS.

Recognizing the changing landscape and increased industry focus on gas, ABS launched its Global Gas Solutions team in 2013 to support industry in developing gas-related projects. ABS is the industry leader in LNG carriers and in providing guidance as the use of LNG as fuel for marine applications expands.

- **Behavior of steel structures** – As containerships continue to increase in size, operational demands are pushing designs into areas where direct experience may be limited. Vessel owners need to be assured that an accurate assessment of structural behavior takes place by bringing together modern analysis tools and sound engineering.

TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP

Shipbuilders, owners and operators in the container sector are facing design and operational challenges. ABS is helping to meet these challenges head on in a constantly evolving market. ABS works alongside its partners to tackle the most pressing technical, operational and regulatory challenges in order to help the industry operate safely, efficiently and responsibly.



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