

Lower Lakes Group Ltd.

Lower Lakes operates 13 Self unloading vessels in the Great Lakes area. Every year the ships enter “lay up” period over the winter where they perform all the Planned and Preventative Maintenance, so as to ensure that the vessels are in prime operating ability for the critical summer period.

They have deployed PMS on all the vessels and the software has become a key system in their organization and is used for all purchases.

One of the key problems was that during the lay up period, during which they have a budget for committed winter work for maintenance they have had problems managing this budget.

“When I joined Lower Lakes, we had discussions internally what were the outstanding problems that they were incurring”: Mr Glen Myers, Director, Engineering & Technical Services at Lower lakes says

“One of the key problems was that during our Winter Work Lay up period, during which we had a budget of several million dollars for maintenance and general repairs, we had extreme difficulty managing the budget. In 2007, we exceeded our budget by approximately 10 %.

Since we configured the TA budgeting component in conjunction with our TA PMS and Purchasing, we now have full and accurate control over our winter work budgets. We have now controlled our budget expenditures, and in 2008 brought our budget in at cost.

This is due to the fact that we had great difficulty attributing purchases to budgetary line items and hence we could not control the budget”.

task assistant



Mr. Myers also commented *“We have now configured our yearly operating budgets using the same setup as our winter work, and we trimmed over 1 million dollars off our operating budget year 2009. The functionality within Ulysses budgeting allows us to control our expenditures better, pre-plan our expenses, and in doing so, we maintain our budgets for both Winter Work and operating costs in line with our yearly targets”.*

Task Assistant® provides the infrastructure to enable enhanced content delivery and content categorisation, streamlining business processes.

Task Assistant allows an organization to achieve total control of its operations as well as quality and safety management systems, and gives it the basis for continuous business process improvement. This means that the organization has the ability to continue to maintain tight margins, while fulfilling and enhancing its duty of care to the vessels and staff under its control.

Reliability of software systems is highly dependent on the design and the way in which the system is intuitive to the user. If the system is not intuitive there will be many actions taken by the user that inadvertently cause problems.

The benefits from the use of a well designed Planned Maintenance and Purchasing system are to ensure that scarce maintenance resources are carefully used to satisfy priorities; to save time and last but not least to control the use of spare parts. Non intuitive software cannot do improvements in these areas unless is such that the staff relies on this because it saves effort for them.

“At Ulysses we believe that software should be simple to use and multi tasking users like masters, chief engineers, superintendents, fleet managers, and other senior staff can practically “walk up and use the software the first time they see it.

This overcomes the most persistent and justifiable apprehension, which is related to whether the software will work in the first place.

Having established that multi-tasking managers on board and ashore will be able to easily use the software, it lays the ground for better enterprise results, which can be quantified or easily approximated” says Mr. Panteleimon Pantelis



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.



info@ulysses-systems.com

www.ulysses-systems.com

