

Great Shipping

unlocks opportunities

UK Maritime Offer



GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

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UK Shipping Concierge

The UK Shipping Concierge exists to support maritime businesses looking to work in or with the UK.

By connecting businesses with UK government departments, we ensure ship owners and operators get the right help at the right time so their business can thrive. We also develop market insights to support policy decisions to further benefit the UK maritime landscape.

Our main aims are to:

- create a link between the maritime industry and government
- provide strategic account relationships between government department experts, ship owners, operators, managers and maritime sub-sector leaders
- promote the UK Maritime Offer from a government perspective and highlight the benefits of trading in the UK
- provide the UK maritime sector a government centre of expertise, monitoring international competition and recommending adjustments to the UK's offer
- discover what barriers businesses may face when considering investing in the UK and work to influence policy leads, as appropriate, to build better policy, which stimulates growth and maritime investment

The UK Shipping Concierge includes data analysts, market insight, commercial, operations and business to business management specialists.

We support both government and industry to enable a prospering UK maritime sector.

Investing in the UK

The UK offers world-leading maritime services and expertise. London retains a leading position in the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index Report.

The UK is recognised for having:

- an internationally respected legal framework
- a highly skilled workforce
- good links to the City of London
- English as its official language

First for Law

London is first in the shipping services section, for law, arbitration, financing, insurance and brokerage services.

Technology and Innovation

The UK is taking a leading role in maritime technology innovation, including creating research and development centres and a regulatory framework for autonomous vessels.

Educational Programmes

With internationally recognised universities and academic providers, the UK delivers comprehensive educational programmes in various maritime disciplines, including law, research and sea-going roles.

Training facilities for shore employees and seafarers are conveniently located with easy access to transport hubs and are run by experienced practitioners.

Asset Management

Many investment and asset management firms, specialising in maritime, have their headquarters in the UK. These firms offer a wealth of opportunities for investors looking for real assets which provide diversification and links to the energy transition.

Safety and Security

A global leader in maritime safety and security, the UK collaborates and builds alliances to ensure the security of shipping lanes and ports.

If you're considering where to base, where to flag, where to find world-leading professional services or where to get help in achieving your zero emission ambitions, the UK is the place to be.

Tonnage Tax

The UK's Tonnage Tax is a competitive alternative method of calculating Corporation Tax profits. It refers to the net tonnage of the ship operated. Profit replaces both the tax-adjusted commercial profit or loss on a shipping trade and the chargeable gains or losses made on Tonnage Tax assets. Other profits of a Tonnage Tax company are taxable in the normal way.

Companies within Corporation Tax, which operate qualifying ships that are “strategically and commercially managed in the UK”, can take advantage of the Tonnage Tax.

Since its introduction in 2000, Tonnage Tax has encouraged many owners and operators to relocate to the UK.

New Election Window

For the first time since 2005, the UK government has opened an election window to allow shipping companies to enter UK Tonnage Tax. Opened June 2023, the election window will last for 18 months, closing November 2024.

Any qualifying companies who previously chose not to join Tonnage Tax, or who entered but subsequently left, can now join for a minimum of 8 years.

The election window allows companies to benefit from the reforms announced at Autumn Budget 2021, which include:

- removing the EU/EEA flag requirement
- reducing the lock-in period from 10 to 8 years
- increasing the permitted limit for “qualifying secondary income”

SMaRT Funding

Support for Maritime Training (SMaRT) is a government funded scheme to increase the number of qualified seafarers in the UK maritime industry.

Eligible cadets receive 50% subsidy of the associated training costs. Eligible cadets must be enrolled on a course at a Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) approved nautical college for an MCA approved academic qualification of level 4, or above.

A full list of cadet requirements and information about the application process can be found in MGN 455 and MIN 678.

Enhancements

In the Spring Budget 2023, the UK government announced further Tonnage Tax enhancements, effective from April 2024:

- raising capital allowance limit for ship lessors who lease into Tonnage Tax, to £200m
- allowance of third-party ship management



Maritime Professional Business Services

The UK is the first choice for those seeking Maritime Professional Business Services (MPBS), with unrivalled expertise in ship chartering, insurance, legal and financial services, delivered by an extensive talent base.

What makes the UK the best place for Maritime Professional Business Services?

- The UK has around a 25% share of the global marine insurance market and employs 6,000 people
- The UK has a 70% share of the market in offshore energy
- Eight of the 16 Protection and Indemnity Clubs are managed in the UK
- There are over 400 UK-based law firm partners focussed on maritime law, more than double the nearest competing centre
- English law is the global industry standard, and the UK offers legal and judicial expertise on shipping, insurance and international trade matters. 80% of global maritime disputes are arbitrated in London
- Seven of the top 20 shipbroking firms have headquarters in London
- Lloyds Register is one of the four large global classification societies, which combined class over 70% of the global fleet
- The UK is the third largest location for third-party ship management
- Professional maritime services employ an estimated 10,000 UK consultants whose expertise supports shipping around the world

London is home to maritime sector international bodies including:

- International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)
- International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)
- International Group of P&I
- The Baltic Exchange
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Freeports

UK Freeports are special areas within UK borders where different economic regulations apply. They bring together industry, government and educational institutions, enabling collaboration within a supportive environment to develop and trial new ideas and technologies.

Freeports offer:

- Stamp Duty Land Tax relief
- enhanced capital allowances for investment in plant and machinery, and structures and buildings
- business rates relief
- employer National Insurance contributions relief
- deferrals and exemptions from import duties
- supportive local planning environments with constructive public-private partnerships
- public investment in skills and infrastructure
- wide-ranging support from national and local government

Freeports encourage businesses from around the world to join new hubs of global trade that create job opportunities and boost the economic prospects of local communities.

The UK government are working to establish Freeports across the country, those announced to date:

- East Midlands Freeport
- Freeport East
- Humber Freeport
- Liverpool City Region Freeport
- Plymouth and South Devon Freeport
- Solent Freeport
- Teesside Freeport
- Thames Freeport

Regional Clusters

The UK's regional clusters provide an unparalleled level of expertise, innovation, ambition and ease of doing business. Regional clusters are available throughout the UK and cater to a wide range of requirements.

Cornwall Marine Network

Home to a strong marine leisure sector, the Cornwall Marine Network offers extensive repairs and boat building capabilities, from traditional

to luxury yachts. Cornwall also has an established research and development culture, supporting innovation and renewable energies.

Humber Marine Renewables

The port of Hull, is one of the largest ports in the country. It's perfectly placed to capitalise on the UK's offshore wind industry, primarily in the North Sea. Green Port Hull's vision is to create a world-class centre for renewable energy and associated industries, including maritime.

North East Port of Tyne

Comprising three ports, the North East Port of Tyne offers opportunities across the maritime sector, including deep water river frontage, offshore renewables, subsea industry, dry docks, and shipbuilding. The North East's strong digital sector provides opportunities in marine navigation and digital marine.

Mersey Maritime

A top five UK container port and a leading transatlantic port, Mersey Maritime handles 45% of trade with North America. Mersey is also a major Irish Sea shipping hub with ro-ro ferry services.

Mersey Maritime has a growing commercial market in:

- specialist and research ships
- ro-pax
- explorer and boutique cruise ships
- naval
- clean and high-tech ships
- Maritime Professional Business Services

Maritime UK Solent

Port of Southampton is the UK's biggest export port, and Europe's leading cruise turnaround. Portsmouth is Britain's premier Naval Base, home to two thirds of the Royal Navy's ships. Both form part of the Maritime UK Solent cluster, offering world-leading capabilities in:

- defence, leisure marine and cruises
- research and development (R&D)
- digital maritime
- Maritime Professional Business Services
- low and zero carbon technologies
- marine autonomy

The Scottish Maritime Cluster

The Scottish Maritime Cluster is Europe's largest ship management cluster. It offers world-class naval ship design, building and support, offshore energy operations support and a full range of professional support services.

As well as opportunities in offshore wind, aquaculture, seaweed and bioprocessing industries, the Scottish

Maritime Cluster also boasts growing naval, ferry and specialist shipbuilding sectors.

Ports and associated industries are expanding through Green Ports initiative and there are engineering, university spinouts and the potential for international shipping services.

Workforce, Education and Training

220,000 people are employed in the UK maritime industry, with total employment impact in excess of 1million.

The UK has world-leading education and training centres that provide highly qualified and skilled individuals. As a centre for innovation and expertise, the UK offers an intellectually dynamic business landscape with access to not only top-quality employees, but the latest ideas in the sector.

Top Quality Education

The UK has long been a world class destination for training and education for students from around the world. Maritime courses provide seafarers with the training and experience they need to achieve certificates of competency, allowing the safe operation, maintenance, and navigation of vessels.

The UK also provides a range of revalidations and short courses to maintain skills, and to advance specialisations in vessel types or with certain equipment, ensuring every need is catered for.

UK universities and colleges offering seafarer education include:

- University of Southampton
- Solent University Southampton
- Warsash Maritime School
- Plymouth University
- Newcastle University
- South Tyneside College
- Blackpool & the Fylde College
- Liverpool John Moores University
- North Kent College
- City of Glasgow College
- University of Strathclyde

Career Development

The UK leads the way in ensuring that qualified mariners can embrace new roles and opportunities, and, when it's time to move ashore, the UK can support that too.

Computer Based Training

UK maritime training continues to lead the way in innovation and new technology, with computer based training introduced to meet the ever-changing needs of industry, and significant investment in areas such as virtual reality and performance management of crews.

The Department for Transport (DfT) is committed to delivering the UK government's People Route Map as part of the Maritime 2050 strategy.

Seafarers from all over the world come to study in the UK to get their certificates of competency, but many also return to further studies here too. Universities in the UK offer a vast array of maritime options at degree and post-graduate levels.

Maritime Technology

The UK is a leader in innovation, science and technology.

If you do business in the UK you will have access to one of the world's largest maritime research hubs. UK academia and industry are respected around the world and are active in the maritime sector. They include pioneering first principles research on alternative fuels, the commercialisation of hydrogen and the development of training and support for seafarers of the future.

The UK government is committed to supporting the sector and is a key voice in shaping the future of transport, innovation, and decarbonisation. The UK government has committed £12 billion of investment to Green Growth including

£1 billion dedicated to the research, development and innovation needed to achieve net zero. This includes a £206 million fund for maritime decarbonisation innovation through the UK Shipping Office for Reducing Emissions (UKSHORE).

The UK's progressive regulatory climate encourages innovation and supports companies with projects both afloat and shoreside. The UK has committed to building an innovative, green economy, and is delivering this through projects such as the National Hydrogen Strategy and the Science and Technology Framework.

There is also a broad range of maritime expertise in London, which supports and engages with the International Maritime Organization's work.

UK Ship Register

The UK Ship Register, also known as the UK Flag, offers straightforward international ship registration services, wide-ranging integrated services and 24-hour support.

Those registered to the UK Flag can access world-class surveyors and regulation through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). The Red Ensign is a recognised flag around the world for the delivering high standards of maritime safety and the welfare of seafarers. UK Ship Register customers receive greater asset assurance and access to the world-leading industry experts.

Joining the UK Flag provides you with access to maritime expertise tailored to your commercial needs. Our customers receive a personalised, round-the-clock service, with benefits and fee packages to suit their needs. We are at the forefront of the maritime industry and are committed to responding to the needs of the shipping industry.

Benefits of the UK Ship Register

- an exemplary safety record and non-negotiable safety standards
- the freedom of an international flag, offering a choice of 120 territories where owners or incorporated companies of vessels can be based
- the recognition of 75 states' officer training qualifications
- emergency access to a professional and highly qualified MCA surveyor, anytime, anywhere
- a personal technical and commercial service – with a named customer service manager and key account manager
- access to practical decarbonisation support, to allow safe and regulated development of new fuels and technologies
- access to government funding and support for research and development for UK businesses and UK vessels
- HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) consider the UK Flag among other factors when assessing the value that companies who want to take part in Tonnage Tax will bring to the UK ('strategic and commercial management' test)



National Ship Building Office

The National Shipbuilding Office (NSO) drives transformative change to empower a globally successful, innovative and sustainable shipbuilding enterprise that works for all parts of the UK.

Based in London, The National Shipbuilding Office works with industry stakeholders including the UK's shipbuilders, extensive national supply chain, academia as well as the wider sector associations, its purpose is to:

- drive transformative change in the shipbuilding enterprise, creating a strategic focus in government for delivering national ambition
- own the National Shipbuilding Strategy; it is empowered to align Departmental activity and investments with its ambition and approach
- oversee all of the UK government's interests in shipbuilding, optimising government's approach to growing the industry and realising the benefits of coordinated procurement, investment and engagement across the enterprise

UK Shipping Concierge

Contact us

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