

**Press Release**  
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For immediate release



**DA-Desk**<sup>®</sup>

## **DA-Desk Announces Collaboration with the Chemical Distribution Institute (CDI) to Increase Transparency in the Maritime Industry**

June 2017 (London, UK | Dubai, UAE) – **DA-Desk FZ-LLC**, the largest independent provider of port cost management services, and the **Chemical Distribution Institute (CDI)**, a non-profit chemical industry organization pushing to improve the safety and performance of transportation and storage for the chemical industry, today announced their partnership via the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to share relevant data relating to CDI's "**International Marine Packed Cargo Audit Scheme**" (IMPCAS).

**IMPCAS** is designed to provide risk assessment reports to improve safety, security, compliance and the quality of operations to reduce incidents and accidents within the global marine packed cargo supply chain. Recognizing the importance of a quality shipping agent in the safe and successful completion of a vessel's voyage, CDI now actively delivers IMPCAS to global shipping agents.

Upon completion of the comprehensive audit, shipping agents receive a formal audit report which CDI makes available via its database [www.cdi.org.uk](http://www.cdi.org.uk) to its participating chemical companies and registered ship operators, in strict compliance with CDI's operating procedures (meeting the current ISO 9001:2015 Standard and International Responsible Care Principles).

**IMPCAS Ship Agent Audits** seeks the highest standards of ethical behavior from shipping agents with the aim of providing a comprehensive safety, quality and environment protection assessment of shipping agents. The CDI audit includes an on-site visit, carried out by one of the 200 CDI-trained and accredited auditors based in the major container handling ports of the world.

**DA-Desk** maintains a real-time updated and continuously sanctions-checked directory of 10,000 global agency profiles, providing global shipping companies updated information of agency accreditations and relevant administrative qualifications. The agency profiles contained within the DA-Desk System are stress-tested about 500 times daily in terms of port call appointments by over 260 vessel-operating customers, some of whom are members of CDI and whose combined fleet accounts for approximately 25% of the total chemical tanker market.

Through this collaboration, CDI and DA-Desk will serve to provide shipping companies with an additional layer of decision support.

DA-Desk Managing Director Hans-Christian Mordhorst explains: "*DA-Desk and CDI both aim to improve the level of transparency within the maritime industry. By collaborating with CDI, DA-Desk can provide its customers with enhanced decision support when making an agency appointment. Shipping companies will be able to see that a chosen agent operates in alignment with industry best practices, as defined by CDI. We are very excited about working with CDI, whose mission is to provide reliable data that chemical companies can use with confidence.*"

CDI General Manager Captain Howard Snaith added: *“This is a great opportunity for the Shipping Agent to demonstrate their qualities to their customers. I am very confident that the collaboration between DA-Desk and CDI will greatly enhance the recognition of and the benefits from “Responsible Care” within the Global packed cargo Marine Supply Chain and hence improve the quality and safety performance of marine transportation within this sector of the industry.”*

The DA-Desk System provides customers with extensive information regarding shipping agents. Incorporating the CDI data into the DA-Desk System, allows DA-Desk customers to know if a shipping agent has an active IMPCAS Audit Report. If the shipping agent has an active report within the CDI database, a link within the DA-Desk System will re-direct customers to the CDI website, where they will have the option to purchase the IMPCAS Audit Report. The customer can subsequently assess the shipping agent based upon their individual review of the IMPCAS Audit Report.

**Issued by Navigate PR on behalf of DA-Desk.**

**For further details, please contact:**

**Nicolle Bloomfield**

[nbloomfield@navigatepr.com](mailto:nbloomfield@navigatepr.com)

Tel: +44 (0)203 326 8455

### **About DA-Desk**

Since its founding in 2001, DA-Desk has helped raising standards in the disbursement account process, creating operational efficiency, and improving the price-value relationship for both principals of shipping companies and port agents. DA-Desk has helped customers transform port cost management practices and establish new standards for efficiency and oversight. Fully independent, DA-Desk has no financial connection to port suppliers, port agents or shipping companies. As a specialist organization, DA-Desk is focused exclusively on the DA process, from port agent nomination to voyage closing. Customers are free to focus on other important tasks because DA-Desk has skilled and knowledgeable workers to manage every painstaking detail. Since DA-Desk processes about 180,000 port calls per year, it is able to improve the compliance profile of its customers while reducing unit costs for them. For more information, visit [www.da-desk.com](http://www.da-desk.com) or [www.da-desk.com/why](http://www.da-desk.com/why).

### **About CDI**

CDI undertakes audits of the entire global “Logistics Services Provider” (LSP) marine packed cargo supply chain; including Freight Forwarders, Tank Container Companies, Container Ports, Container Shipping Companies, Container Freight Stations; importantly this also includes Shipping Agents. CDI are driven by the expertise of leading chemical manufacturers and provide information regarding marine transportation and storage of chemical products. The vision of CDI is to become the global source for data, information and advice specific to the chemical tanker industry. CDI are able to provide cost-effective systems for risk assessment, and provide a single set of reliable data which chemical companies can use with confidence. CDI’s objective is to provide reliable, consistent, high quality data and information on industry best practice and international legislation. For more information, visit [www.cdi.org.uk](http://www.cdi.org.uk).

**Contacts**

CDI: Captain Howard Snaith

General Manager, [howard.snaith@cdim.org](mailto:howard.snaith@cdim.org)

Tel +44 (0) 1483 281 268

DA-Desk: Anna Zhurbenko

Agency Relationship Manager, [a.zhurbenko@da-desk.com](mailto:a.zhurbenko@da-desk.com)

Tel +971 4 3636223