

The prize-winning Port of Helsinki satisfied with Vuosaari

HEIKKI Nissinen, Managing Director of the Port of Helsinki, says that he very pleased with the operations of Vuosaari Harbour thus far.

– In the past two years, it has become clear that traffic is increasing splendidly, both from a cargo and passenger perspective. So far we have not encountered anything unsatisfactory, he says.

– The role of Vuosaari harbour is to serve Finnish import and export in an efficient way, says Nissinen.

The harbour has an automatic traffic identification system, which



The role of Vuosaari harbour is increasing.

has also proved to be operationally reliable.

– In the near future, we do not have any major projects or investments planned. In our own activities, we are aiming to further increase our traffic, he says.

At the end of 2010, the Port of Helsinki received the ESPO (European Sea Ports Organisation) award, the theme of which was ‘Port as Part of the City’.

The panel of judges were particularly impressed by the Port of Helsinki’s continuous interactive dialogue with local community stakeholders.

MIKAEL KAPLAR/STUDIO POINT

Fleet management software for the cost-conscious and information driven shipping industry

MODERN fleet management systems must meet many requirements, both in terms of costs and benefits. They should be easy to rollout, use and upkeep, and they should provide timely and accurate information. “Software as a Service” providers such as MESPAS, delivering the applications as a shared, web-based service, perform exceptionally well on all these aspects.

INFORMATION IS THE LIFEblood OF ANY BUSINESS WANTING TO STAY COMPETITIVE

From a management perspective, controlling information is vital to the success of modern ship owners or managers. Both crew and management need timely and accurate information to run smooth operations and to make informed decisions. Decisions such as whether or not to carry out certain maintenance jobs, perform measurements, engage people, order spare parts, and so on. Many shipping companies have recognized that, to become more efficient, they need

an affordable PMS (Planned Maintenance System) and procurement system, which also delivers in terms for information management.

TRADITIONAL SOFTWARE VERSUS CLOUD COMPUTING

When disengaging from mere functionalities, it is much easier to compare the various software providers. There are two different approaches: the traditional software approach and the newer cloud computing approach which allows “software as a service” (SaaS).

Applications based on cloud computing are cheaper than traditional systems.

Mespas has developed a set of modern fleet management software modules on the basis of SaaS, and combined them with a comprehensive database.

This database is run centrally and in parallel versus for each customer separately. It comprises customer-specific data (accessible only by the customer) as well as master data – entered only once and for use by all customers. This centralized database

approach offers significant benefits in terms of efficiency, compliance and cost control.

Another tier of cost savings and efficiency increases results from outsourcing IT related tasks such as backups, hosting servers, providing security and implementing software updates. With MESPAS, this is all done centrally and is part of the package, allowing ship operators to focus on their core competencies instead of IT.

► Various renamed shipping companies worldwide use the mespas R5 software solution based on cloud computing.

