



OceanConnect

**PRESS CONTACT:**

Bob Welsh

E-mail: [rwelsh@oceanconnect.com](mailto:rwelsh@oceanconnect.com)

Office: + 914 285 7100 (USA)

Mobile: + 203 919 2057

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **OceanConnect Hires Four Top Brokers**

*Bill Wakeling, Rob Sargeant cite OceanConnect's fast global growth as key factor*

**WHITE PLAINS, NY, April 17, 2003** - OceanConnect President Thomas K. Reilly announced today that Bill Wakeling, Robin Sargeant, John Bright and Jackie Gooby have joined OceanConnect effective immediately.

"We are pleased to welcome four of Europe's leading bunker brokers, with more than 100 years of marine experience between them, to OceanConnect," said OceanConnect President Thomas K. Reilly. "It's a tribute to OceanConnect that such an outstanding team has chosen to join us. Together with our strong global teams led by S.I. Shim of OceanConnect Korea, Joanne Constantine of OceanConnect USA, and Trevor Matthews of OceanConnect UK, they will work to provide the marine industry with a higher level of service," Reilly said.

"With the addition of Bill, Robin, John and Jackie, OceanConnect strengthens our offering by combining online transactions with traditional 24/7 service," Reilly continued. "Our strategic aim has always been to combine the best traditional service with the best technology, offering the greatest value to our customers."

"We are all looking forward to working with the OceanConnect team, which is now the only marine fuel service combining traditional brokering expertise and leading edge technology," Bill Wakeling said. "Our long-standing customer base will benefit considerably from our association with OceanConnect," Wakeling added.

## Background and Contact Details

### **Bill Wakeling**

[bwakeling@oceanconnect.com](mailto:bwakeling@oceanconnect.com)

+44 780 363 2228 mobile

Managing Director and joint founder of MOBCO. Bunker broker and trader since 1974, at Frank Martin Agencies, and latterly at E.A. Gibson Shipbrokers as department manager. Formed MOBCO in 1984 in conjunction with Robin Sargeant and Dave Range.

### **Rob Sargeant**

[rsargeant@oceanconnect.com](mailto:rsargeant@oceanconnect.com)

+44 780 363 2227 mobile

Director and joint founder of MOBCO. Previously held positions at Texaco and Gulf Oil as trader and operations coordinator from 1975 for a total of nine years, and latterly at E.A. Gibson Shipbrokers as bunker broker from 1980 until 1984.

### **Jackie Gooby**

[jgooby@oceanconnect.com](mailto:jgooby@oceanconnect.com)

+44 780 363 2225 mobile

After five years as cargo bookings clerk for Fred Olsen/Salen Stockholm and also O.T. Africa Lines, joined MOBCO accounting department in 1986, and subsequently moved to the trading desk in 1992.

### **John Bright**

[jbright@oceanconnect.com](mailto:jbright@oceanconnect.com)

+44 780 363 2223 mobile

Bunker broker and trader since 1985 at Stewart Group of Companies and also E.A. Gibson Shipbrokers. Joined MOBCO in 1994. Previously employed in the shipping industry since 1976 variously as accounts clerk at Andrew Weir & Co; post-fixture/operations supervisor in Furness Withy Group companies and also Ocean Transport and Trading Group; offshore supply vessel broker and short sea chartering broker at Samuel Stewart & Co./Stewart Chartering Ltd.

### **About OceanConnect**

OceanConnect has rapidly emerged as one of the world's largest and most innovative marine fuel brokers, combining classic broker services and powerful technology to help find the best available deal. Fuel requirements have been fulfilled worldwide, with auctions in North and South America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, the Far East, and Australia. Over \$500 million in business has been closed to date. OceanConnect succeeds by creating value for the marine industry with personnel in New York, Singapore and London.

**Purchasing Services** - Suppliers compete in live, transparent auctions to win a buyer's fuel business. Buyers and suppliers see the market while finding the best possible deal.

**Traditional Support** - A worldwide team of fuel experts is available 24/7 to offer traditional broker services, including market indications, advice on when and where to buy, and post-fixture support.

**Risk Management** - OceanConnect's partnership with StarSupply (one of the world's foremost derivatives houses) helps us find the best solutions for risk management for shipowners and suppliers.

**Market Information** - Daily bunker pricing, the latest news from Bunkerworld, and commentary from industry expert Michael J. Marco.

**Bunker Intelligence** - Customers can receive personalized analyses of fuel spending and market conditions that highlight opportunities for saving money.

OceanConnect is the global marketplace for the marine industry offering marine fuels, products and services to all buyers and sellers. Investors include: Argos Group NL; Booz Allen Hamilton; BP International; Chemoil Corporation; ChevronTexaco Fuel and Marine Marketing; Clarksons; DS Norden AS; Eletson Ventures Inc.; Keystone Shipping Company; Lazard Brothers & Co. Ltd; MarineProvider AS; Marubeni International Petroleum (Singapore) Pte Ltd.; Nippon Mitsubishi Oil Corp (NMOC); P&O Nedlloyd; Shell; Stena Bulk AB. Except for historical information, the matters discussed in this news release contain forward-looking statements. For more information about OceanConnect contact Bob Welsh at + 1(914) 285 7100.