



**OceanConnect**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Mike Marco joins OceanConnect**

*Former McQuilling President says OceanConnect 'is on the cutting edge of bunkering'*

**WHITE PLAINS, NY, January 14, 2003** – OceanConnect President Tom Reilly today announced that Mike Marco, former president and vice chairman of McQuilling Brokerage Partners, will join OceanConnect as a Senior Strategic Advisor effective January 15, 2003.

“Mike Marco was a chief architect of one of the most highly successful ship brokerage firms. His shipping expertise is unparalleled. OceanConnect is honored to have Mike join our team. We look forward to working with him as OceanConnect adds more services that bring value to shipowners,” OceanConnect President Tom Reilly said.

The collaboration will be an expansion of Marco’s existing role at OceanConnect as author of the daily “Marcogram”, one of the site’s most popular features. “Wherever we go, we receive excellent feedback on his daily shipping insights and his readers are very glad that they will continue,” Reilly said. “Mike’s new strategic contribution will better enable OceanConnect to deliver a higher level of service to shipowners and suppliers.”

“OceanConnect is the only fuel service combining the power of online transactions with traditional broker expertise. From the beginning OceanConnect recognized the importance of combining state-of-the-art technology with top expertise. Relationships are supplemented rather than weakened. This combination drives a competitive advantage,” Mike Marco said.

“Last year we added the expertise of Bunkerfuels founder Bob Fitzgerald; then S.I. Shim, Asia’s leading broker, established OceanConnect’s Korea office. With Mike Marco on board and top talent in London, New York, and the Far East we continue to develop an acknowledged and proven team to serve the marine industry,” Reilly added.

Marco brings extensive experience with major tanker brokerage firms, and is a widely respected participant in industry forums. He retired in December 2002 from McQuilling Brokerage Partners, Inc, where he was Director, Vice Chairman, and former President. Previously he worked at Poten & Partners, Inc as manager of the tanker department; his career also includes stints at Simpson, Spence & Young, Jones & Thompson. Mike is a longtime Board Member of WorldScale and holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, King’s Point, New York.

Mike Marco can now be reached by e-mail to [mmarco@oceanconnect.com](mailto:mmarco@oceanconnect.com) or by calling OceanConnect at 914-285-7100.

### **About OceanConnect**

OceanConnect’s unique combination of traditional broker services and a transparent online marketplace allows buyers and suppliers to efficiently find the best available deal, with or without a computer. 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 \$745 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.

**Market Information** – Daily bunker pricing, the latest news from Bunkerworld, commentary from industry expert Michael J. Marco, forward price indications from Sempra Energy and average price charts from Petroleum Argus are all available online.

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

E-procurement site and equity partner MarineProvider AS routes bunker enquiries to OceanConnect as part of their total solution for maritime purchasing.

*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 Annette Manna at + 1(914) 285-7100.*