



The Valles Group Manages Fleet Safety and Efficiency with Applied Weather Technology's BonVoyage (BVS) Software

Background

The Valles Group has been in the shipping business for nearly 100 years. Founded in Shanghai in the 1910s, Valles originally provided cargo liner services along the Yangtze River and Northern Coast of China. Over the years, the company has grown in size and scope and continues to expand its fleet. Now headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, today Valles owns and operates 12 vessels, including a fleet of two panama bulk carriers and ten Aframax tankers. Valles vessels are chartered by major companies including ExxonMobil, ENI, NYK and Chevron.

Situation – A Need for Better Weather and Voyage Routing Information

For many decades, captains piloting Valles vessels only had access to paper-based, non-graphical weather forecast reports, which made charting voyage routes, optimizing fuel efficiency, and staying abreast of shifting weather forecasts a challenge. As a result, some vessels incurred heavy weather damage and delays. In addition, every extra hour at sea due to inefficient routing added to fuel costs. With Valles' commitment to providing safe and cost-effective shipping services, the company wanted more accurate weather and routing information. In 1999, Valles' Director of Fleet Safety, Oscar Pinto, viewed a demonstration of AWT's Bon Voyage System (BVS) and became convinced that he had found the right solution to the problem.



THE VALLES GROUP

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– Oscar Pinto, Director of Fleet Safety, The Valles Group



Solution – Valles Group Deploys BVS Across Entire Fleet

“I immediately recognized the value of BVS and realized that it would not only be a tremendously useful tool for our company, but would also change our entire industry,” said Pinto. “We initially tested BVS on two of our vessels.” BVS was extremely well received by the captains and crew of the test vessels. “They found that BVS’ graphical, colorful and simple interface made weather patterns much easier to see, simplifying voyage planning and routing. The ability to interact with data was a refreshing change and they all agreed that the system was very user-friendly.”

The Valles team also appreciated the accurate, up-to-date BVS weather reports. Within a month, the company decided to deploy BVS across their entire fleet. “The 16-day forecasts and consistent updates give us the ability to map our routes safely and more cost-effectively,” Pinto explains. “BVS is much more than a weather forecaster; it’s a voyage planner. We view it as a useful resource to our business.” BVS is also installed on every new ship that Valles acquires.

Results – Valles Group Saves Time and Money with BVS

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Pinto, a former captain whose leadership role with Valles now keeps him mostly shore side, also uses BVS’ powerful fleet management tool to monitor the positions and routes of Valles’ entire fleet to ensure vessels are operating efficiently and safely. “It gives us complete visibility into all of our shipping activities going on around the world,” he says. “It provides us the big picture and helps us manage and monitor overall performance of our fleet.”

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