AMVER

Press Release

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GREEK AMVER TANKER RESCUES 2 NEAR BERMUDA

NEW YORK – An Amver participating Greek tanker was diverted as part of an international search and rescue effort for two sailors reportedly in distress over 600 miles northeast of Bermuda on June 21, 2009.

The sailors, one American and one Briton, were on a voyage to the Azores when they encountered trouble and activated a SPOT handheld emergency communications device. SPOT personnel notified United States Coast Guard rescue authorities who immediately checked the Amver system for available ships.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea.

The Astro Saturn, a Greek flagged tanker, was diverted to rescue the two sailors on the 33 foot sailboat Maelstrom. Coast Guard rescue personnel also turned to international rescue authorities to help locate the sailing duo.

Captain Michail Eleftheriadis turned his fully loaded tanker, operated by Maran Tanker Management of Athens, Greece, towards the distress location. Captain Eleftheriadis reported the weather conditions were quite severe with winds blowing in excess of 20 knots and seas at Force 5.

The Astro Saturn made radio contact with the Maelstrom and began planning the rescue. Captain Eleftheriadis maneuvered the Aframax tanker alongside the sailboat and his crew began rescue operations lowering a pilot ladder to the survivors. "Once we had the two sailors safely aboard the tanker we left the sailboat adrift," stated Captain Eleftheriadis.

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With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center.

Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,600 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit http://www.amver.com to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system. You can read more stories on the Amver blog at http://www.amveruscg.blogspot.com, follow Amver on Twitter at http://twitter.com/Amver or join Amver on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/amver.

Rescue photos:
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Photo credit: crew of the M/T Astro Saturn

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