

Company: AD Ports Group, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Nomination Submitted by: Abu Dhabi Maritime

Company Description: AD Ports Group is a leading global enabler of trade, transport, industry, and logistics. The Group operates an integrated ecosystem of Ports, Economic Cities & Free Zones, Maritime & Shipping, Logistics, and Digital clusters across more than 50 countries on five continents, which enables global trade and generates value-enhancing expansion and symbiotic, synergistic growth.

Nomination Category: Management Categories

Nomination Sub Category: Executive of the Year - Diversified Services

Nomination Title: Capt. Saif Al Mheiri - CEO Abu Dhabi Maritime & Chief Sustainability Officer - Sustainability Unit, AD Ports Group

1. Which will you submit for this nomination, a video of up to five (5) minutes in length or a written essay of up to 650 words? Choose one:

Essay of up to 650 words

2. If you are submitting a video of up to five (5) minutes in length, provide the URL of the nominated video here, OR attach it to your entry via the "Add Attachments, Videos, or Links to This Entry" link above, through which you may also upload a copy of your video:

3. If you are providing a written essay for this nomination, submit in this space an essay of up to 650 words describing the nominee's accomplishments since 1 January 2023:

Total 521 words used.

Captain Saif Al Mheiri has been a transformative force in Abu Dhabi's maritime sector, driving forward numerous pioneering sustainability initiatives that are reshaping the maritime sector. His successes as the CEO of Abu Dhabi Maritime and Chief Sustainability Officer at AD Ports Group include the conception and launch of MARSDNA, the "Maritime Sustainability DNA" platform. This groundbreaking digital tool is designed to simplify the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles for maritime businesses. MARSDNA is free, intuitive, and aligned with international frameworks, such as International Maritime Organization (IMO) guidelines and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). It helps stakeholders assess their ESG maturity, generate customised sustainability reports, benchmark progress, and access green capital, all within minutes.

The impact of MARSDNA is profound. By providing a clear and accessible way for maritime businesses to engage with ESG metrics, it democratises sustainability efforts across the sector. This tool is not only beneficial for large port operators but also for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and even smaller entities like jet ski rental services. The platform consolidates thousands of global ESG metrics into a straightforward, intuitive process, eliminating the complexity that often hinders effective ESG data collection, benchmarking, and reporting.

In addition to MARSDNA, Captain Saif contributed to the establishment of Maritime Hub Abu Dhabi (MHAD) and Maritime Sustainability Research Centre Abu Dhabi (MSRCAD). The former, a platform for collaboration between public and private-sector maritime stakeholders, aims to unite individuals and organisations from across the emirate's vast maritime community to inform decision-making, and effectively disseminate best practices in sustainability and decarbonisation. The latter, a non-profit research platform within Abu Dhabi Maritime Academy, enables private-funded academic research into marine sustainability, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), and green policies. The MSRCAD serves as a hub for innovation and research, fostering collaboration between academia and industry to drive forward sustainable practices in the maritime sector.

In 2023, Abu Dhabi Maritime launched the Abu Dhabi Maritime Awards (Marinas Edition) with Captain Saif serving as chairman. The programme aims to set benchmarks for excellence in marina operations throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and Türkiye (MENAT region). The awards have provided a platform for regional marinas to showcase their innovations in administration and sustainability. Reception of the programme has been astounding: the 2024 edition attracted three times as many submissions from marinas as the inaugural edition.

Captain Saif also led the innovative installation of eco-sea wall panels at Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat and Al Aliah Ferry Terminals, a collaboration with the Integrated Transport Centre (Abu Dhabi Mobility) of the emirate's Department of Municipalities and Transport. These panels, produced by Archireef, are designed to encourage the settlement of marine biodiversity and have the potential to revolutionise the relationship between maritime infrastructure and surrounding ecosystems.

All these initiatives have not gone unnoticed. Under Captain Saif's leadership, Abu Dhabi's ranking in the DNV and Menon Economics Leading Maritime Cities report has risen to 22nd globally – a remarkable ascent of 10 places from the 2022 report. This achievement underscores the significant progress in the emirate's maritime capabilities, as well as Captain Saif's unwavering commitment to excellence, sustainability, public service, and progress.

4. In bullet-list form (up to 150 words), provide a brief summary of up to ten (10) of the nominee's chief achievements since 1 January 2023:

Total 112 words used.

- Launch of Maritime Hub Abu Dhabi (December 2023)
- Launch of the Abu Dhabi Maritime Awards (Marinas Edition) (first edition November 2023; second edition November 2024)
- Launch of Maritime Sustainability Research Centre (May 2024)
- Installation of eco-sea wall panels at Saadiyat and Al Aliah Ferry Terminals (terminals opened in 2024)
- Launch of MARSDNA (November 2024)
- Launch of Maritime Hub Abu Dhabi ([press release](#))
- Launch of the Abu Dhabi Maritime Awards (Marinas Edition) ([press release](#) for the first edition; [press release for the second edition](#))
- Launch of Maritime Sustainability Research Centre ([press release](#))
- Installation of eco-sea wall panels at Saadiyat and Al Aliah Ferry Terminals ([press release](#))
- Launch of MARSDNA ([press release](#); [online tool](#))

Attachments/Videos/Links:

[Capt. Saif Al Mheiri - CEO Abu Dhabi Maritime & Chief Sustainability Officer - Sustainability Unit, AD Ports Group](#)

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