**JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

**ELSSI DRUG TESTING LTD JOINS GREEN AWARD**

**10th of September, 2016, ATHENS – Green Award certificate holders will get up to 15% discount on ELSSI Drug Testing Ltd drug and alcohol tests.**

A Green Award certificate, which can be obtained by ships that go above and beyond the industry standards of quality and safety, acts as a quality mark and brings benefits to its holders. The only condition is that a ship has to meet the Green Award requirements that cover technical, managerial, environmental elements and the human element. Green Award ships demonstrate excellent performance and their responsible behavior is rewarded by incentive providers, amongst which are ports and maritime service companies.

On the 10th of September, 2016, Mr. Stavros Stamatopoulos, Operations Director of ELSSI Drug Testing Ltd announcedthe company’s decision to join a Green Award network.At a ceremony held in Athens, he received a Green Award plaque from Mr. Dimitrios Mattheou, Green Award Chairman.

ELSSI provides high standard drug and alcohol testing solutions and fulfils the requirements of an independent international service which is credible both to the ship owners and the national and international authorities and the US Coast Guard. As a certified company using a USA SAMHSA (Substance Abuse of Mental and Health Services Administration) approved laboratory and highest standards, ELSSI exceeds the requirements of all the international and national organisations (IMO, ILO, US Coast Guard) that are concerned with drug testing.

ELSSI’s mission is perfectly aligned with Green Award certified ships that are extra clean and extra safe. ELSSI believes that testing crew members for Drug and Alcohol abuse, ensures vessel’s and crew safety in compliance with legislation. Drugs and safety don’t mix. At sea everyone is responsible, not only for their own safety, but the safety of others.

Effective as of the 10th of September, 2016, Green Award certified vessels are entitled to receive a 5% discount on Drug and Alcohol Testing and on Biochemical Testing, and a 15% discount on Drug and Alcohol Sampling Kits.

Capt. Dimitrios Mattheou, Chairman of the Green Award Foundation, emphasized on the importance of the human element in shipping. “Officers and crew on board have a huge impact on safety. Use of prohibited substances can potentially lead to unsafe actions of crew members, resulting in accidents. Identification of drug and alcohol abuse can in many cases prevent adverse effects. The role of testing is critical and we are pleased that ELSSI has joined us, allowing Green Award certificate holders to perform these important checks at a reduced price.”

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***About ELSSI Drug Testing Ltd***

*ELSSI delivers solutions that have helped ship operators achieve safer sailing and are in compliance with regulatory requirements. The Substance Abuse Programme was set up in 1993 to meet the needs of the international shipping community that was seriously concerned about the health and safety risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse on board ships.*

*The continued success of ELSSI is a testimony to the value of its high quality and personalized services offered with a world-wide coverage.*

*The preferred partner in drug and alcohol testing solutions with the highest safety and environmental standards.*

[*www.elssigroup.com*](http://www.elssigroup.com)

***About Green Award***

*The Green Award foundation was established in 1994. Green Award is a global, independent, non-for-profit quality assurance organization that works by certifying ship managers and vessels that go beyond the industry standards in terms of safety, quality and environmental performance. The scheme is open for sea-going oil and chemical tankers, bulk carriers, LNG and LPG carriers, container carriers and inland navigation barges.*

*The essential of Green Award is that it covers a wide range of aspects related to safety quality and the environment. Green Award brings together high quality ships, maritime service providers and ports that want to improve safety, attract quality ships and reduce environmental and safety risks. In fact Green Award acts as the platform for the industry cooperation. Green Award incentive providers (ports and maritime service providers) award ships the highest safety and quality standards of which are confirmed by the Green Award certificate with various benefits such as discounts on the port dues, products and services.*

*With over 75 incentive providers in North America, Europe, Africa, Middle East and Asia currently participating in the scheme, Green Award motivates ship owners and managers to invest in the improvements on board and ashore and serves as a reliable indicator of the ship’s highest standards and as a Corporate Social Responsibility and risk reduction tool for shipping companies and ports.*

[*www.greenaward.org*](http://www.greenaward.org)