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12 August 2013
For immediate release

John Aitken joins Witherbys as Senior Advisor

John Aitken will act as a Senior Advisor to Witherby Publishing Group, with particular emphasis on marine fuels and emissions. John is a well known figure in the sphere of emissions to air from shipping and has contributed to numerous papers and articles on the subject. He was the Secretary General of SEAaT (Shipping Emissions Abatement and Trading), and did much to raise the profile of organisation and its aims. For many years he was also an advisor to the UK Delegation at the IMO MEPC (Marine Environment protection Committee).

John started his career as a Marine Engineer, in 1971, as a cadet with Shell Tankers. He obtained United Kingdom First Class Engineer's certificates for both steam and motor ships. Changing careers, but remaining with Shell in the early 1980s, he held various positions in the field of oil and gas production operations engineering. In 1996 he made another career change into Health, Safety and the Environment, and became HSE Manager for Shell Trading. During his career, John has lived and worked in many countries around the world, including the USA, Norway and Nigeria. John is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and an Associate Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. He recently was awarded a Diploma with distinction for Marine Accident Investigation.

John says: *"I am absolutely delighted to be of service to Witherbys. This continues an association from the mid 2000s, when we worked together in developing a computer based safety training package for marine department personnel. It is great to see how Witherbys has developed, diversified and matured into a leading maritime publishing group. The success of the company is testimony to its drive and leadership. It reflects the industry's need for high quality information products, as it can only prosper if those at sea and ashore are properly educated and informed."*

Iain Macneil, Managing Director at Witherbys said: *"Due to the increasing levels of technical knowledge necessary to manage our portfolio of publications, particularly in the field of fuels and emissions, we felt that John was the ideal individual to bring a balance of regulatory understanding and engineering knowledge in support of our research and editorial team. We are looking forward to working with John on our projects, both current and future"*.

About Witherby Publishing Group

Witherby Publishing Group, which was formed from a JV between Witherbys and Seamanship International, is based in Livingston, Scotland and run by partners Iain Macneil and Kat Heathcote. Iain is an ex-mariner who set up Seamanship International to design and develop training and reference materials for the shipping industry. Kat, who has a background in the energy business including with BP and Wood McKenzie, joined the company in 2004.

The company has customers in over 180 different countries and has won a variety of awards including the Seatrade Award for best IT Application, the Lloyd's List Training award and the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade.

The company publishes as Witherby Seamanship and Witherby Insurance. All digital versions and products are provided through Witherby Digital.

For further information:

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