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(Tradewinds)

Heidenreich unveils new internet tool

Heidenreich Marine Inc has launched a new internet tool for dry bulk shipowners called [www.QBulk.com](http://www.QBulk.com).

The new website is similar to the [www.Q88.com](http://www.Q88.com), which was launched in June for the tanker owners.

The use of [QBulk.com](http://www.QBulk.com) will improve the accuracy and efficiency by which dry-bulk shipowners can complete and distribute vessel questionnaires to charterers and port terminals.

This web site allows for automatic completion of the questionnaires by linking the questionnaires to a common database.

In addition, the web site allows the user to search the database for specific information about each vessel and to easily keep track of certificate dates.

Fritz Heidenreich, vice president of Heidmar and manager of its IT department, told TradeWinds Monday that the questionnaires for dry-bulk owners would be more than the 117 needed for tankers.

The [www.QBulk.com](http://www.QBulk.com) will have a larger ship database than [www.Q88.com](http://www.Q88.com), he said.

"We launched [www.Q88.com](http://www.Q88.com) in June of this year, which has had great success and gained acceptance in the tanker industry as 'The Place' to go for a speedy and efficient method of completing questionnaires," Heidenreich said.

The 117 questionnaires on [Q88.com](http://www.Q88.com) are being used by over 100 subscribers for 860 vessels.

Extending the service into the dry-bulk sector was a logical move, Heidenreich said.

New subscribers can use this service at no cost until 1 July, 2002, after which, each subscriber will be charged a nominal annual fee per ship.

Heidenreich said that the nominal fee for [www.QBulk.com](http://www.QBulk.com) should be similar to the \$300-per-vessel cost for the [www.Q88.com](http://www.Q88.com).

However, discounts will be given to companies with a large fleet.

Access to [QBulk.com](http://www.QBulk.com) is provided via a password-protected login.