



Pangaea Logistics office administrator Barbara Gradley wheels out a trolley of PPE supplies to members of the Newport Fire Department outside the shipowner's headquarters in Rhode Island. Photo: Contributed

Pangaea Logistics protects local community's first responders

A gift to a Chinese yard was returned with a poem, and a Greek technical manager secured thousands of PPE products

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By Joe Brady in Stamford

Pangaea Logistics Solutions is doing its part in the coronavirus pandemic by donating nearly 100,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) — some of it from a shipyard in China.

The bulker operator, which is based in Newport, Rhode Island, has been distributing cases of masks, gloves and protective clothing to healthcare workers and emergency responders in its home state and bordering Massachusetts over the past few weeks.



Chinese shipyard offers to deliver more than ships to Pangaea

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Office administrator Barbara Gradley has been at the centre of the distribution efforts, but she credits Pangaea chief executive Ed Coll with hatching and supporting the initiative.

"Ed is the true hero here," Gradley told TradeWinds.

"I was just put in charge of contacting and delivering. Ed anticipated the need for the equipment and he was right on. From all to whom we provided gear, we received overwhelming gratitude. I have the best boss ever, one who is always thinking of others."

Coll first broached the PPE issue with TradeWinds on 30 March. He told how staff at China's Guangzhou Shipyard International (GSI) — where Pangaea is having four bulkers built — was offering to return unused PPEs to the shipowner, when the worst of the outbreak was shifting to the US.

Months earlier, Pangaea had sent the yard about \$15,000-worth of PPE as the virus spread within China from its origin in Wuhan.

"Now, they're reciprocating — they said, 'We'll send stuff to you. How can we help you?'," Coll said about GSI at the end of March. "I'm pretty sure this is the way the world is supposed to work. Everything else aside, we've got to take care of each other."

That scenario came to pass, as the shipyard did return unused masks, goggles, suits and gowns. The equipment went to Rhode Island's first responders via the Newport Fire Department.

"The fire department was very appreciative of the Tyvek suits and gowns — they said these had been hard to find,"



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Gradley said.

Greek management office

But realising it would need more, Pangaea placed a larger order through its technical management office in Greece, Seamar Management SA.

Those supplies were distributed throughout the region, with other Pangaea staff pitching in. Recipients included police and fire departments, nursing homes and even some other maritime companies in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Chief financial officer Gianni Del Signore estimated the equipment has a value around \$75,000 and most has been distributed, largely through Gradley's work.

"Hopefully we've helped where we can so that people have some supplies and will feel safe as we slowly reopen the local economy," Del Signore said.

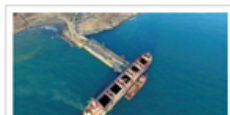
Pangaea operates a fleet of between 45 and 60 supramax, panamax and handymax bulkers, of which 21 are fully or partly owned.

The company's shares trade on New York's Nasdaq, with a current market capitalisation of around \$105m.

It specialises in niche project-cargo areas such as liftings of iron ore from Canada's Baffin Island aboard ice-class vessels.

Pangaea is undertaking four 95,000-dwt post-panamax units at GSI that will go into service under 10-year contracts with Baffinland Iron Mines in the ore trade.

Despite some delays related to the virus outbreak, deliveries are expected in 2021. [\(Copyright\)](#)



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A MESSAGE FROM GUANGZHOU

When GSI sent PPE equipment to Pangaea, it also enclosed this poem attributed to poet Terri Fanning:

"Friendship is like the breeze,
You can't hold it,
Smell it,
Taste it,
Or know when it's coming,
But you can always feel it,
And you'll always know it's there,
It may come and then go,
But you can know it will always be back."

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