A leading container shipping company first took on fuel using ExxonMobil’s Mass Flow Metering System (MFMS) early in 2015 in Singapore and according to its Bunkering Manager the advantages over tank gauging were immediately obvious.

“With traditional fuel delivery methods inaccuracies can be as high as 5 per cent, which translates into a sizeable financial hit,” he said. “ExxonMobil’s MFMS technology, which directly measures mass not volume, brings down the error rate to 0.5 per cent, a significant and important difference. It also offers a time saving of between one and three hours per delivery.”

The benefit of the MFMS also includes the reduction of human errors as the weaknesses of tank dipping measurements are replaced by an automated and fully calibrated system. This can also eradicate the potential effects of changing environmental conditions.

“The use of a sealed system improves security of delivery, providing both certainty and peace of mind,” explained the Bunkering Manager. “This really helps to eliminate arguments between vessel engineers and bunker barge operators that can arise from queries about fuel deliveries using conventional methods.”

“With traditional fuel delivery methods, inaccuracies can be high but with ExxonMobil’s mass flow metering system (MFMS) technology the error rate is as low as 0.5 per cent.”

Overall, the MFMS makes the bunkering process faster and more convenient for measurement purposes as it can monitor and provides a log throughout the whole process, he added. “We can now trace the flow condition and automatically calculate the delivered quantity by mass.”

The Bunkering Manager reacted positively to the news that the MFMS technology is to be introduced in Hong Kong. “We welcome the plan and if possible we’d be more than happy to be involved in helping test this pioneering project.”