

# The Journal of Commerce Commonwealth of Independent States

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## Orion Helps Disarmament Effort

Beginning in 1991 as part of the Nunn-Lugar legislation, Congress authorized nearly \$1.6 billion funds to help facilitate the destruction of nuclear weapons within the countries of the former Soviet Union.

This program, known as the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) under the control of the Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA), was augmented in October 1992, November 1993 and October 1994 and was designed to assist the Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan in the elimination of their nuclear chemical weapons/facilities of mass destruction.

Orion Marine Corp. has been

an active participant in the CTR program since early 1994. Its participation began with the shipment of two 20-ft. containers to Postavy, Belarus. By January 1995, its involvement increased progressively to chartering a vessel carrying over 4,000 cubic meters of cargo destined for Ukraine.

Cargo transported has included everything from cranes and excavators to bulldozers, trucks and machinery spare parts. Shipments are handled, for the most part, via charter ships directly to St. Petersburg, Mariupol or Vladivostok and then transported to their final destinations by railroad, truck or barge.

The ultimate sites, in some instances, can be located up to 3,000 kilometers (1,860 miles) from the port of entry. Security is a very important factor and is being stressed by ConFlo Lines'

Russian agents.

The most recent CTR one-year contract calls for approximately 165,000 measurement tons of equipment originating in 12 U.S. locations and destined to 52 points throughout the CIS.

Orion Marine Corp., agent for ConFlo Lines, has been trading in the former Soviet Union for nearly 25 years and is well connected in doing business in that region. Peter K. Schauer, president and ConFlo Lines owners' representative, has traveled throughout the CIS countries for 20 years.

"Our customers know that their cargo is in experienced hands," he says.

This long-term relationship has held to establish solid, working agreements with the Russian railroads, the Ministry of Transportation and various port authorities.