China-designed vessel would top all containerships

But new approach bucks recent trend of smaller, nimbler vessels

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Render of 27,500-TEU containership. (Photo: China State Shipbuilding Corp.)

China's state-owned shipyard announced a prospective design for what would be the world's largest containership.

China State Shipbuilding Corp.'s (CSSC) Shanghai Ship Research and Design Institute said it has received approval in principle for a liquefied natural gas dual-fuel vessel of 27,500 twenty-foot equivalent units.

If constructed, the ship would be 3,000 TEUs larger than the largest containerships in the world, Mediterranean Shipping Co.'s Irina-class fleet of 24,346-TEU ships, which the French carrier took delivery of in 2023. The news came in published reports from the SMM maritime industry trade