

Impressive RheinFantasie enters service

Big demand for special functions on the Rhine motivated the building of the €10m multi-function event ship *RheinFantasie*, whose owners have this time plumped for a monohull newbuild instead of a second catamaran.

The new 85m long and 14m wide ship, which draws 1.2m and carries up to 1,000 passengers, has just gone into service on the Rhine with Köln-Düsseldorfer Deutsche Rheinschiffahrt (KD) after completion at Holland's de Hoop Shipyards in Lobith. The Dutch yard has already built other ships for KD.

Designed by the Büro Schiffstechnik Buchloh on the Rhine, the three deck *RheinFantasie* is similar in style and concept to KD's 1,650 passenger catamaran *RheinEnergie*. However, *RheinEnergie*, which has been in service since 2004, is bigger at 90.3m long and 19.3m wide and also has total available space of 2,000m².



■ KD's two Rhine event vessels are seen side by side in Cologne.

The older triple decker has been much in demand for special event excursions, one of which was hosting German born Pope Benedikt on a trip down the Rhine in 2005.

Although smaller all round, the impressive new *RheinFantasie* also has a lot going for it. The vessel has total available space of 1,600m² and its main features include a 900m² play area for children, an open air, partially covered grill deck with seating for 750 people, and forward placed viewing salons. A generous midships gallery with ceilings 6m high has a 35m²

stage which will rival many land based facilities.

RheinFantasie is driven by two water cooled MTU Type 12V2000M61 diesels, each of 600kW at 1,800rpm, operating over unspecified gearbox plant to two CRP rudder propellers. Service speed is put at 21kms/h, which can rise to 25kms/h when the boat is running downstream. Other equipment includes a Scania DI 12-56A bow thruster plant, three Scania DI 12-70M generators, and a Sisu 49DTAG port power auxiliary unit.

By TOM TODD

iPS continues crewing Svanen

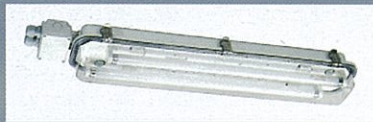
Dutch marine personnel specialist iPS has extended its contract to crew the heavy lift vessel *Svanen*, operated by Netherlands based construction giant Ballast Nedam. *Svanen* places monopiles and transition pieces for offshore wind farms. iPS has fully crewed the crane vessel for many years now and will provide personnel for a second offshore wind farm near Walney Island, UK as well as a wind farm off the coast of Anholt in Denmark. Offshore wind has become an important part of the company's activities.

Rolls in Rotterdam

Rolls-Royce has opened its newly expanded and modernised Marine Service Centre in the Port of Rotterdam. The investment marks the latest stage in the development of a global network, which currently comprises dedicated repair activities in 34 countries. The facility, located in Pernis, Rotterdam, originally opened in 2001, and has undergone a major expansion programme, including a doubling of maintenance workshop space to 1,500m² and the modernisation of equipment used in the servicing of marine products.



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