CASE M/S ARTANIA:
NEW ENGINES EXTEND LIFETIME OF CRUISE SHIP

The old engines of the M/S Artania cruise ship were reaching the end of their lifecycle. A solution was needed if the vessel was to remain in service. After stiff competition, Wärtsilä was eventually chosen to deliver four new 12V32 main engines and one auxiliary generator set to extend the vessel's operations.

– We wanted the vessel to become fully reliable for the next 20 years in terms of performance and safety, says Andrea Spensieri, Fleet Manager at V.Ships Leisure SAM.

The M/S Artania cruise ship is owned by Artania Shipping Ltd and was built in 1983. At 231 metres long and 29 metres wide, the vessel was originally equipped with Pielstick engines. The M/S Artania operates worldwide, can accommodate 1,200 passengers and is operated by the German travel agency Phoenix Reisen.

V.Group is a Monaco-based leading global maritime service provider, operating in the commercial shipping, cruise, energy and defence sectors. As part of the group, V.Ships Leisure is dedicated to the passenger shipping industry with services covering technical management, hotel operation and catering, crew management, itinerary planning and port operation, newbuilding and conversion projects and supervision, consultancy and asset management. V.Ships Leisure employs more than 200 shore-based and 7,000 seagoing staff, providing services to more than 140 cruise vessels, ferries and super yachts.

WÄRTSILÄ

“The Wärtsilä 32 is a very good product and the commissioning team on board was really excellent”

Challenges	Solution	Benefits
– Extending the vessel’s lifecycle – Reducing emissions, ship operative costs – Improving the vessel’s safety, reliability and passengers’ comfort	– Installation of four Wärtsilä 12V32 main engines, one Wärtsilä 8L32 auxiliary engine and supporting auxiliary equipment	– Lower operative costs – 70 per cent reduction in lube oil consumption – Lower emissions fulfilling the latest regulations – Higher reliability and safety – Higher comfort level for the passengers – Increased value of vessel

NEW ENGINES EXTEND THE SHIP’S LIFECYCLE

The M/S Artania had been refitted a couple of times since she started operations in 1984. However, when the vessel turned 30 years old, she still had her original main engines. These engines would have needed some extra mechanical upgrades and repairs in order to reach a good and acceptable operational standard. However, rather than upgrade and repair, V.Ships decided to order new engines for the vessel instead.

The customer needed a solution that would extend the ship’s lifecycle, reduce emissions and operating cost, as well as improve the safety, reliability and comfort of the passengers. Among stiff competition, Wärtsilä was eventually chosen to deliver the new engines: four Wärtsilä 12V32 main engines, one Wärtsilä 8L32 auxiliary engine and supporting auxiliary equipment.

– In our decision, we focused on increasing the value of the vessel and having the shortest pay-back time in terms of reduced costs for maintenance, fuel and lube oil. Furthermore, we also wanted an environmental upgrade to reduce the vessel’s emissions and an increased level of comfort for the passengers in terms of reduced vibrations, says Andrea Spensieri.

INSTALLATIONS ACCORDING TO PLAN

The installation of the engines took place at the Lloyd Werft Bremerhaven in Germany. At the time of the conversion, Mr. Lino Calzolari was the Fleet Manager leading the re-engine project. The engine installation was successfully performed during September–December 2014 in accordance with the contract.

According to Mr. Spensieri, who was the superintendent of the vessel during the conversion, a project of this magnitude is a challenge in itself, from design to installation and commissioning. The design by V.Ships had to ensure that the existing reduction gear, clutch system and shaft alternators could still be used. Thus it was necessary to study the connection of the new engines working at 750 rpm with the existing propulsion working at 400 rpm.

– An additional step down gear (750/400) was installed in the propulsion train.

GOOD PRODUCTS ARE EASY TO RECOMMEND

Andrea Spensieri says that he is very satisfied with the engine solution that Wärtsilä delivered.

– The Wärtsilä 32 is a very good product and Wärtsilä’s on-board project management and commissioning teams have been very professional and cooperative.

Spensieri also acknowledges Wärtsilä’s good support regarding both warranty assistance and standard service assistance. He says that the long-term cooperation with Wärtsilä, being a big partner, will continue.

– It is always a balance between technical and economic aspects in terms of the quality of the product, assistance during the lifecycle and human relations with the capacity to assist and support each client’s needs.

– This power upgrade of the M/S Artania has reduced the operation costs. We have drastically reduced the lube oil consumption by almost 70 per cent. The increased comfort of the passengers, reduced emissions in accordance with the latest regulations and increased operational reliability and safety are additional benefits. So, would I recommend Wärtsilä’s products? Yes, I would, concludes Andrea Spensieri.

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