Baltic Offshore was able to expand their submarine cable installation services after converting the cable installation and repair vessel, C/S Pleijel, to improve its cable-laying capabilities. Wärtsilä delivered most of the equipment needed for the conversion, including a new engine to power the thrusters to enable dynamic positioning.

– When we needed to increase the loading capacity in order to bid on bigger cable projects, we selected Wärtsilä for the project. This was because their complete solution contained exactly what we needed. Wärtsilä also has a proven track record and expertise in this area, says Thomas Eklund, General Manager at Baltic Offshore.

Wärtsilä’s part of the conversion was to replace the original conventional propeller, main engine and rudder with a Wärtsilä LCT 175 thruster and a Wärtsilä 8L20 generator set.

– We knew from the start that this major project would be complex due to all the modifications and rebuilding of the ship, says Thomas Eklund.

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– We knew that the many modifications on our ship would be a challenge, especially...
“We felt very safe having such a reliable partner.”

in terms of meeting our demands and fitting equipment into the existing structures. Nevertheless, Wärtsilä had the best proposal to meet our demands and, considering the complexity of the conversion, things went very well, says Eklund.

The conversion took three months to complete at the Oresund Drydocks yard in Landskrona, Sweden.

Immediately after the conversion, C/S Pleijel was contracted for a power cable installation between the autonomous Åland archipelago and mainland Finland. The installation will be used as a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission system (100 MW) over a distance of 158 kilometres.

OPENING DOORS TO NEW MARKETS AND CUSTOMERS

Thomas Eklund strongly believes that this conversion will generate several important benefits, now that Baltic Offshore is able to take on bigger cable installation and recovery projects due to the increased loading capacity. Furthermore, the new machinery and DP-capability enables the company to bid on projects with high demands on reliability and manoeuvring capacity.

Baltic Offshore is very pleased with Wärtsilä’s solution; not only with the delivered equipment, but with Wärtsilä’s project management skills too. The conversion supports Baltic Offshore’s business and goals.

In addition to be able to bid on larger projects to existing customers, we believe that this conversion will open doors to new markets and new customers, says Eklund.

Eklund is confident that Wärtsilä will continue to offer high-quality products, provide guidance concerning future needs to improve and develop the vessel, and support Baltic Offshore regarding maintenance and spare parts. He says that Wärtsilä has several good offers to choose from.

— We are still in the process of discussing a maintenance agreement.
— This conversion will allow us to expand our cable-laying services. Considering the complexity of this conversion, we felt very safe knowing that the machinery and propulsion were being supplied by such a reliable partner as Wärtsilä, concludes Thomas Eklund.