THE RELATION BETWEEN WÄRTSILÄ AND KRISTINA CRUISES IS BASED ON QUALITY AND TRUST

“During our long relationship with Wärtsilä, we have found that their products are simply the best for our vessels. We are familiar with the quality of Wärtsilä’s products and know that they are well worth the investment” Esa-Pekka Partanen from Kristina Cruises describes.

Kristina Cruises is a family-owned Finnish shipping company with over 50 years’ experience in commercial cruises. The latest flagship, M/S Kristina Katarina, began cruising international waters in 2010 and currently visits more than 100 harbours in 30 countries annually, which means that the availability and long-term reliability of the ship are very important. Consequently, a relationship based on true quality and trust has evolved from more than ten years of co-operation with Wärtsilä. The previous vessel owned by Kristina Cruises also had Wärtsilä main engines, including a service and maintenance agreement.

REFURBISHED ENGINES MEET MODERN STANDARDS

– A few years ago we needed a new cruise ship for our fleet and we found a suitable vessel. M/S Kristina Katarina had everything we were looking for in terms of size, technical specifications, ice class, and so on, Esa-Pekka Partanen explains. However, the new vessel needed a refit.

During the refit of the M/S Kristina Katarina, Wärtsilä was responsible for ensuring that all the main and auxiliary engines would meet the new modern standards regarding the environment and fuel efficiency. The refit included, among other things, equipment to reduce lube oil consumption, a new state-of-the-art oil mist detection system, the cleaning of all generators, and new air compressors.
A Wärtsilä OWS 1000 oily-water treatment system was also installed, the capacity of which surpasses existing International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulation requirements by a large safety margin.

**SYSTEM EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS**

The newly refitted Kristina Katarina made it possible for Kristina Cruises to expand their cruise destinations to cover the Caribbean and other new areas.

– Wärtsilä supported our goals of cutting unnecessary costs while simultaneously running an environmentally sustainable business. Both the Wärtsilä OWS system and Wärtsilä’s knowledge of the rules and regulations surrounding the ports and waters of this area contributed to this, says Partanen.

– The Wärtsilä OWS system has helped us greatly in establishing excellent relationships with the local authorities. They are impressed with the system’s low environmental impact, and so are we, explains Esa-Pekka Partanen from Kristina Cruises.

The oily-water treatment system includes a bilge discharge monitoring system, which constantly monitors the oil content in all discharges overboard. As the system collects data of all discharges made, Kristina Cruises is able to pinpoint the quality of every discharge made, and can also avoid accusations of illegal dumping while in international waters. In some areas it is even mandatory to have a monitoring system.

– Another important advantage of the Wärtsilä OWS system was its adaptability. Installing the system in Kristina Katarina’s small engine room was easy as the system could be split into three sections, Partanen adds.

**SAVING ON MAINTENANCE**

The Wärtsilä OWS system has been in use for about a year now and the feedback from Kristina Cruises has been very positive.

– There have been no problems with the product and we have saved a lot on maintenance, since Wärtsilä’s product manuals provide us with all the info we need in terms of service, Partanen explains.

Kristina Cruises has been particularly pleased with the cost savings the Wärtsilä OWS system has created.

– It requires no manual operation, which saves us valuable man-hours. We can now pump the separated water overboard, which means less transportation costs compared to bringing it ashore. We can then actually sell the separated oil onwards, which results in reduced disposal charges, states Partanen.

The capacity of the Wärtsilä OWS system actually proved itself to be even higher than expected, when it was put to the test with the extra load from an unplanned onboard oil and water leak.

– The system actually exceeds our expectations, says a satisfied Esa-Pekka Partanen.

– I would say that our relationship with Wärtsilä is warm, flexible and supportive. It is also ongoing since we have a maintenance agreement for all the engines and the oily-water treatment system, Esa-Pekka Partanen concludes.