

Simple



Having been involved in metal working and production, automation and drives, and mechanical and design engineering, I have always regarded vessels as one of those ‘products’ where all technology meets. And as with all that involves technology, their performance is very much part of our daily lives, although the public at large is in general unaware of that crucial role they fulfil in maintaining our standards of living. And the ingenuity it takes to make it look that simple. But you cannot win them all, I guess.

Over the last few weeks I had the pleasure to again marvel at some recent developments that once again underline the fact there is really nothing out of the ordinary to shipbuilding. It is just like everyday life, where for instance information technology is there to make life easier. You use OW Bunker’s ‘marine fuel app’ on your iPhone to check the CCAI number against your engine’s specs and the fuel’s specific energy content to make sure you get your mileage. And on a more entertaining yet educational note, you download the ‘Ulstein app’ to find out the story behind their ship design and shipbuilding heritage and current day philosophy.

Also for the greater good, there is really no difference. Fuel saving, climate change, protecting the environment, improving standards of living – it is all out there on that vessel. Some developments are hi-tec, others just involve mother wit. Or both. Take Norwegian Ulmatec Pyro for instance. Their waste heat recovery system is ‘fuelled for free’ by exhaust gas heat and energy taken from the engine cooling water. The recovered energy can be used for HVAC, tank heating and washing systems and they are looking at – duh, Norway – de-icing options.

And mind you, it all may sound simple, there is some pretty witty control system technology involved. But their wit does not stop there. They intend to develop a ballast water treatment system based on what you – or your partner if you’re lucky – really does every day to get rid of bacteria: fire up the cooker. But this time using recovered waste heat of which part can be reclaimed again after use. Simple.

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Front cover: Designers and builders should consider the climate of a vessel quite early in the shipbuilding process. To achieve desirable work-life conditions, decision makers must resolve the noise issues of a vessel, a task best accomplished by specialists. Alara-Lukagro – expert in noise control solutions – designed, produced and supplied four sound resistant control cabins for several cutter suction dredgers of IHC Beaver Dredgers, part of IHC Merwede. More on page 23.

Background picture contents page: Near the port of Rotterdam, the largest in Europe, the international maritime community will gather from 8 till 11 November 2011 to share ideas and advances. To stay ahead of the competition, this year Europort Rotterdam 2011 encourages participants to access the future with their chosen theme, Advanced Technology. More on page 32.



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