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Golden Age

Shipbuilding is experiencing a record boom. The shipyards in the Netherlands 'suffer' from bulging order books. The booming shipbuilding industry differs markedly from the oil tanker boom 35 years ago, a trend that was driven primarily by growth in the oil business – and collapsed during the oil crisis. This time around, the boom is not dependent on a single product, but on the growth in global trade producing a growing demand for new ships. A growth, it should be noted, that is driven to a large extent by the exploding economic growth of China.

Today the Netherlands plays a leading role in the international maritime industry, thanks to its excellent network of expertise centers, well-utilized seaports, a thriving industrial sector and long tradition in international trade. The Netherlands' long relationship with the water goes back as far as the Golden Age when the Netherlands was at the peak of its power. By building on the know-how and experience gained in those early days, the Netherlands has preserved its excellent reputation as a maritime nation. Its ports, its high level of expertise, and its rich history all mean that the Netherlands is active in each and every area of shipbuilding: in new building, in refit & repair, and in the supply sector.

Dutch shipyards stand out from their competitors abroad by coming up with clever designs and by providing an excellent level of after-sales service. The fact that Dutch-built ships are not much more expensive than those built elsewhere has to do with the ingenious Dutch construction methods, which have made it possible to achieve higher production figures with far fewer staff in recent years. Translated in terms of turnover, the Dutch shipbuilding industry ranks in the top five in the world. In terms of technology, Dutch maritime suppliers are world-class competitors. Dutch companies are worldwide specialists in a number of expert areas: electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, engine room technology, propulsion systems and interior construction. The true power of Dutch shipyards and suppliers, however, is in the engineering: they come up with innovative solutions and are able to integrate different systems. Shipyards and suppliers are capable of building any type of vessel, but in terms of the technology implemented, the Netherlands is trendsetter in a number of specific segments: dredging, offshore, navy, inland shipping and superyacht building.

The coming years seem to be a revival of the Golden Age. Netherlands' shipbuilding industry is back... Back to the Future!



Publisher/Executive Editor

Dennis Vinkoert

Ship Building

i n d u s t r y

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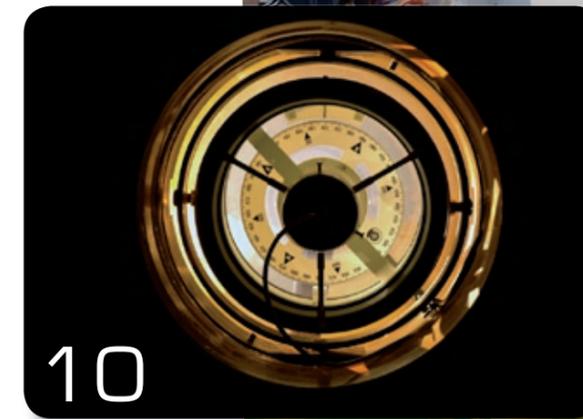
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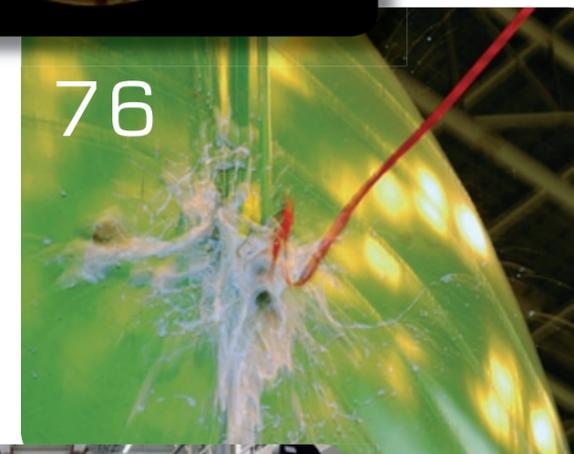
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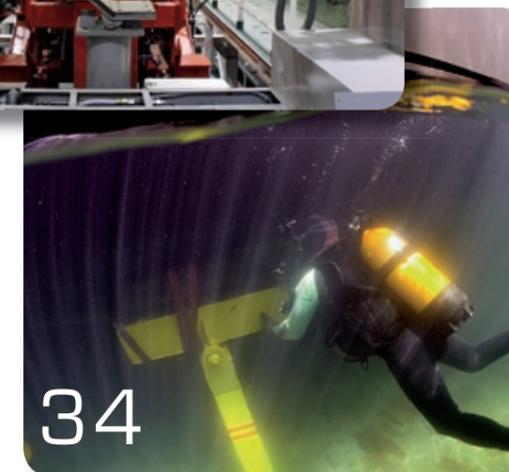
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Cover Photo: Pipelay vessel Audacia depicted at Keppel Verolme's premises in Rotterdam-Boelek, the Netherlands.
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