

19 February 2007

Converteam to equip two NCL cruise ships with a new electric propulsion solution

Converteam has been awarded a multi-million euro contract by Aker Yards to supply electric power and propulsion systems on two new cruise ships for Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL). The ships, to be built at Aker Yards in Saint-Nazaire (France), will be 325 meters long and 40 meters wide, with a gross tonnage of approximately 150,000 and 4,200 passenger berths.

For Converteam, the contract is a milestone for several reasons. It is the company's first large assignment for NCL and the vessels will be the first cruise ships fully equipped with Converteam's new electric propulsion solution which is based on high-torque density induction motors and MV7000 converters, associated with advanced digital propulsion control. The contract also includes twelve generators (six per ship) with a total power of 160MW, to be supplied by Converteam Ltd (UK), and twelve electric motors for thrusters (six per ship) with a total power of 30MW, to be manufactured at Converteam Motors' Nancy plant (France).

Each ship will be powered by two shaftlines, directly driven by two 24MW slow-speed induction motors. Supplied through four MV7000 converters using press-pack IGBT (Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor) technology, these motors will help make the propulsion chain more reliable, more efficient and more compact. Passenger comfort will be improved thanks to a low level of noise and vibrations, and maintenance time will be significantly reduced by the use of induction motors and of converters with plug and play technology.

The first vessel will be delivered at the end of 2009 and the second in 2010.

Jean-Charles Duriand, Director of the Marine Division at Converteam in France, said:

"This contract is the fruit of close cooperation between Aker Yards, NCL and our engineering and commercial teams, starting at the project's inception. Our partnership and Converteam's acknowledged expertise in marine propulsion and electric machines and drives was decisive in the choice of our solution. "Excellence in Execution" is now Converteam's motto. And this new contract gives us an opportunity to demonstrate that all our teams, from design to manufacturing and commissioning, are fully committed to the success of both this key project and of Aker Yards and NCL in offering top cruises on powerful and high-performance ships meeting the most demanding standards of comfort and safety."

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About Converteam

Converteam Group is a world leader in power conversion engineering. Building on over a century of experience, we are firmly placed at the leading edge of technology and innovation, with a global reputation for excellence in the conversion of electrical energy. We develop and provide solutions built around three core components: rotating machines, drives and process automation. Serving specialized sectors as well as our core markets in Marine & Offshore, Oil & Gas, Energy and Industry, our 3,500 staff members provide power conversion solutions worldwide. At year-end 2006, Converteam sales totalled €680,000,000. In Marine, Converteam is a world leader in integrated electric power and propulsion, dynamic positioning, and automation systems which are used for merchant, naval and offshore vessels and applications.