

Second Mercator ship gets fluoropolymer coat

A second Aframax tanker belonging to Mumbai-based Mercator Lines, the 105 000dwt *Prem Divya*, has been coated with International Paint's foul release coating, Intersleek 900. The move

comes just nine months after sistership *Prem Pride* had her vertical sides coated with the fluoropolymer at Drydocks World – Dubai. This time though, the hull upgrade of the *Prem Divya* involved the entire

underwater area of the 1998-built vessel during the tanker's second special survey.

'We had monitored *Prem Pride*'s fuel consumption closely,' explains Mercator Lines' General Manager Amit Agrawal. 'At corresponding engine speeds, the vessel was consuming up to 6% less fuel, depending on weather conditions, after the application of Intersleek 900. We originally calculated projected savings based on a bunker price of \$450 and found we were saving nearly three tonnes of fuel a day. And whilst bunker prices continue to climb, our pay-back period just gets shorter. The added advantages of no biocides, reduced drydocking times and lower

CO₂ emissions convinced us that this is the technology we need.'

Prior to investing in Intersleek 900 technology, the Indian shipping company had undertaken a detailed cost benefit analysis, taking references from owners who had already adopted the new hull coating. The process involved calculating the savings generated by easier through-life hull coatings management including a smaller volume of paint required at subsequent dockings, an improvement in environmental footprint and, of course, startling fuel consumption savings. □

■ *Prem Pride* at Drydocks World – Dubai

