

Indian tanker has savings with Intersleek 900

A SECOND Aframax tanker belonging to Mumbai-based Mercator Lines, one of India's fastest growing shipping firm with a diverse fleet including tankers, bulk carriers, dredgers and an oil rig, has been coated

with International Paint's latest foul release coating. The 105 000dwt *Prem Divya*, has been coated with Intersleek 900 just nine months after sistership *Prem Pride* had her vertical sides coated with the latest

generation patented fluoropolymer at Dubai Drydocks World. 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 the *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 US\$450 and found we were

saving nearly 3t of fuel a day. And whilst bunker prices continue to climb, our payback 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 Mercator undertook 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.



The tanker *Prem Divya* which has been coated with Intersleek 900