

## Intersleek 900 smoothes RN flagship

The flagship HMS *Ark Royal* is the latest Royal Navy vessel to benefit from International Paint's Intersleek 900 hull coating in cutting fuel consumption and reducing emissions by up to 9 per cent. The 1985-built Invincible-class aircraft carrier had the underwater hull treated with the fluoropolymer-based foul release system at the UK's Portsmouth Naval Dockyard.

Since the earlier Intersleek 700 product was applied to the hull of the Type 23 frigate HMS *Northumberland* in January 2005 some 18 Royal Navy ships have been coated with Intersleek foul release systems. Intersleek 700 serves four frigates and three of the new Type 45 destroyers while Intersleek 900's application references include a Type 42 destroyer, six minesweepers, three Type 45 destroyers, a helicopter carrier, a landing ship and a frigate.

Intersleek 900 has also been supplied to a number of other navies, reportedly yielding substantial fuel savings, emissions cuts and further in-service performance benefits from a self-cleaning product with improved antifouling properties.

Cost savings in fuel and drydockings over a ship's lifetime are claimed to be considerable, while a higher gloss enhances cosmetic appearance. Reduced over-spray during application saves on paint costs and a reduction in solvent levels addresses local authority painting permits. **MP**