



A special certificate marks the century milestone

## Century milestone for PSPC gap analysis

**International Paint and Lloyd's Register have completed their 100th 'gap analysis' measuring shipyard practices against the requirements of the IMO's Performance Standard for Protective Coatings.**

They reached the century mark at the STX France Cruise yard in Saint-Nazaire just two years after their debut project in China. The service is now due to be extended to the Americas after being provided throughout China and at 55 yards in Europe.

The PSPC was adopted in December 2006 as an anti-corrosion measure for newbuildings. It applies to dedicated seawater ballast tanks on all ship types and to double-side skin spaces on bulk carriers.

As a key part of the analysis, the two-day assignment in Saint-Nazaire was followed by a presentation to senior managers from all departments – design, procurement, quality, steelwork, outfitting and production as well as paint – emphasising the need for co-operation in meeting PSPC requirements and maximising shipbuilding efficiency.

Liberette Foubert, system engineer in the yard's painting department, said: "We're very pleased to have been part of this significant milestone. The gap analysis has helped structure our current works practices and improve inter-departmental communication. Proven compliance with the

PSPC will improve our business capabilities, competitiveness and future opportunities".

A commemorative certificate was presented to STX France Cruise during a follow-up visit in mid-June confirming that the yard had implemented changes recommended in the gap analysis.

In further news, International Paint has announced plans for a worldwide product development laboratory in Singapore. Due to open early next year, the new facility will focus on the next generation of antifouling and foul release technology.

The laboratory will join the company's global marine R&D network, which currently spans 'worldwide' centres in the UK and Korea and regional centres in Houston, Bangalore, Shanghai, Geoje, Singapore and the Felling HQ in north-east England.

Design work on the new lab is almost complete and construction will begin soon. Initially it will employ up to 20 local and expatriate scientists. Capacity for rapid future expansion is being built-in to meet what Aidan Mernin, worldwide marine technical manager describes as "the challenge o deliver new products that meet business needs and to do this faster than ever before."