

UK-based International Paint is another leading



*Intergard 787 primer, designed to limit VOC emissions, is applied to the exterior shell of a newbuilding*

supplier of coatings to the passenger shipping industry and similarly continues to refine its product range. The company has, for example, recently upgraded its Intersmooth range of self-polishing copolymer (SPC) antifoulings, which are widely used on passenger vessels, by fine-tuning the coating's composition to produce a high solids version, which will not only give improved antifouling performance but also result in reduced environmental impact.

The high-volume-solids Intersmooth 7465HS SPC for newbuildings and Intersmooth 7460HS SPC for maintenance and repair are based on patented copper acrylate technology. Advantages highlighted by International Paint include the scope to raise drydock productivity, since the higher solids content means that fewer, thicker coats of up to 200 microns can be used.

Fewer coats save time on application and a typical five year scheme can now be based on two coats instead of three. Other benefits cited include less overspray and a smoother finish, helping to reduce fuel consumption.

International Paint has also recently launched a new range of universal primers for the newbuilding market that comply with IMO's Performance

Standard for Protective Coatings (PSPC) and new regional regulations limiting Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions, such as the EU's Solvents Emissions Directive. According to the company, the new product range offers universal application, high volume solids with low VOC, year round workability with fast drying, low temperature cure and long overcoating intervals.

Leading the range is Intershield 300, which has a lengthy track record, having been applied on over 9,000 vessels to date. According to Jim Brown, marketing development manager, "Intershield 300 is the industry benchmark in IMO PSPC-compliant anticorrosive performance. This abrasion resistant aluminium pure epoxy coating can be applied to multiple vessel areas over a mechanically prepared shop primer and offers long-term asset protection and control of through life maintenance costs."

The newly developed Intershield 300HS is a high solids version of this established technology, which offers 78 per cent volume solids, lower VOC and application direct from the can without thinning. Currently available in Europe, the product will be stocked worldwide by mid-2010.

Another new product is Intergard 7600, which is a light coloured, pure epoxy universal primer, while Intergard 787 is a light coloured aluminium pure epoxy coating with 80 per cent volume solids. Both are said to offer good corrosion protection and abrasion resistance, while Intergard 787 has been configured to help meet the environmental challenge on VOC emissions.

Intergard 5600 and Intergard 5620 complete the range, and these light coloured, epoxy universal primers have evolved from previous Intergard 403 and Intergard 423 technology. The new products are said to have excellent 'sprayability' all year round and have proven long-term anticorrosive performance.