

SRM Ship Repair Newsletter

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REPAIRS, CONVERSIONS, YARD PROFILES, FEATURE AND ON WATCH

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A&P FALMOUTH: A&P Falmouth, part of the A&P Group, lead the way when it comes to applying the innovative underwater coating system Intersleek 900. Over the last two years the yard has performed more applications than any other facility completing 12 vessels, each requiring a full blast and re-paint with Intersleek 900. The paint system is based on a fluoropolymer foul release technology, providing a very smooth surface which has the dual effect of reducing hull friction so reducing fuel consumption and making it very difficult for fouling organisms to adhere to the surface.

Building on A&P's excellent relationship with International Paints and A&P's Falmouth's highly experienced in-house paint department, the yard has built impressive learning curve to attain a proven track record in the preparation and application of intersleek.

The complete underwater area is fully blasted to WJ1 standard using a combination of in-house equipment and the Doornbos UHP water blast equipment dependent on vessel size. The four coat paint system is then applied using airless spray. The final three coats are subject to strict over-coating times, minimum of six hrs and a maximum of 12 hrs between second and third coats requiring strict planning to ensure these are achieved. The results are the high quality finish required by both ship-owner and paint manufacturer. The core differences from conventional coatings are;

- Weather conditions; a clear 24 hour weather window for the application of the second and third coats is critical.
- Strict Coordination of other trades to ensure all dock operations are completed before the final coats are applied.
- Dedicated spray equipment and personnel for intersleek separate to other coatings being applied.
- Enhanced cleanliness of spray equipment and drydock.
- Masking of topsides and other coatings to prevent contamination/overspray by intersleek