

Painting in a defence mechanism

International Paint has been deployed by the UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) for more of the latest fuel saving technology, Intersleek 900, for the hull of the UK Navy's flagship HMS Ark Royal, the latest UK MoD vessel to benefit from Intersleek foul release coatings which can cut fuel consumption and reduce emissions.

As part of the Ark Royal's Contractor Support Period at Portsmouth Naval Dockyard in the UK, the 20,600 ton Invincible Class aircraft carrier has had its underwater hull coated with the premium fluoropolymer foul release coating, a move estimated to cut fuel costs by as much as 9% and reduce the 1985 built vessel's emissions by a similar margin.

Matthew Goodall, International Paint's UK Navy Account Manager, said: "We are delighted that the Ministry of Defence has chosen the latest generation hull coating, Intersleek 900, for HMS Ark Royal. We already supply Intersleek 900 to a number of world navies which have confirmed substantial fuel savings, cuts in emissions and other in-service performance benefits."

HMS Ark Royal's Commanding Officer, Captain John Clink said: "As 'a world class

navy ready to fight and win', the Royal Navy has a long history of seeking out new technologies to garner every possible advantage over our adversaries. Improved

endurance is a key capability and I look forward to putting the new Intersleek coating through its paces as HMS Ark Royal returns to operational duties." ■

