

International makes *Queen Mary 2* sleeker

Feedback from Carnival Corp engineers have reported positive performance results from application of International Paint's fluoropolymer foul release coating, Intersleek 900.

Carnival's commitment to reducing the environmental impact of vessel operations through 'practices which set a high standard for excellence and responsibility', resulted in the largest ocean liner ever built, *Queen Mary 2*, having almost 6000m² of its hull hydroblasted and recoated at a recent maintenance and repair docking at Blohm+Voss, Hamburg.

Previously coated with a self polishing copolymer (SPC) antifouling, Cunard Line, a division of Carnival Corp, made the decision to switch to Inter-



sleek 900 as an integral part of a strategic initiative to reduce fuel usage, cost and associated CO₂ emissions whilst still maintaining operational schedules.

David Strawford, Head of Technical Services, Carnival UK, said: 'To date, performance results have been very

positive. The vessel is achieving operational speed whilst utilising less power than was previously the case. A significant improvement compared to the previous SPC system.'

Carnival Corp has coated more cruise vessels with the Intersleek system than any other passenger vessel opera-

tor: Their first vessel to be coated Oriana, operated by subsidiary P&O Cruises, in 1999. International Paint's first generation silicone based foul release system, Intersleek 700, was used. Since then, twenty other Carnival cruise vessels have been coated.

Following the introduction of Intersleek 900 in 2007, the company is currently upgrading existing silicone coated vessels to advanced fluoropolymer technology. Smoother, tougher and with better foul release capabilities than its silicone based predecessor, Intersleek 900 was most recently applied on P&O Cruises Arcadia and is specified on the four AIDA cruise vessels currently under construction at Meyer Werft, Papenburg. □