

First newbuilding for Intersleek 900

MSC Cruises is the world's first company to apply International Paint's new biocide free foul-release coatings system, Intersleek 900, on a cruiseship newbuilding.

The application on the underwater hull of the latest Intersleek 900 foul-release coating on the 23knot, 92,400gt *MSC Poesia*, scheduled to debut in March 2008, was carried out at pre-delivery drydocking of the vessel in St Nazaire, France in early January 2008 by Aker Yards.

Introduced in February 2007, Intersleek 900 is a new and patented, biocide-free fluoropolymer foul-release coating.

The product exhibits a smooth finish, with what the coatings supplier terms 'unprecedented low levels of average hull roughness combined with excellent foul-release capabilities and good resistance to mechanical damage.'

In terms of reduced CO₂ emissions and improved fuel efficiency, Intersleek 900 offers predicted savings claimed to be 6% in comparison to biocide-containing SPC (self polishing copolymer) antifoulings, although in-service experience on a range of vessel types has shown savings considerably higher than this, according to International. The supplier said the potential existed for even greater savings in comparison to controlled depletion antifoulings. Other claimed benefits of Intersleek 900 include no leaching of biocides into the sea, and reduced paint consumption at the next docking.

For the shipyard the Intersleek 900 system on *MSC Poesia* was applied over Intersleek 717 Link Coat, a product especially designed to be

applied to SPC antifoulings in good condition, eliminating the need for grit blasting and specialist waste disposal further reducing the environmental impact of the Intersleek coating process.

John Willsher, Intersleek business development manager, EMEA said: 'With Intersleek 900 quickly building a track record of 90 vessels, it is clear that operators are attracted by the potential benefits on offer.' *NA*

MSC Poesia - a first newbuilding contract for Intersleek 900.

