

Sustainability and transparency - the new cornerstones of competitive shipbuilding

Meyer Turku LTD and the University of Turku have launched a research project which aims to increase the transparency regarding responsibility and sustainability in shipbuilding. The purpose is to strengthen the competitiveness of the Finnish shipbuilding sector and clear the way for sustainability-related business innovations.

In addition to Meyer Turku and the University of Turku, the SUSTIS project (Sustainability Transparency in Shipbuilding Networks) involves some of the key companies in the shipbuilding network and VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland LTD.

The aim of this two-phased project is to create new ways for the Finnish shipbuilding industry to take a leading role in sustainable shipbuilding. Instead of focusing on the sustainability in ship's operation, SUSTIS widens the scope to the whole process of ship's lifecycle development. In addition to ship's materials, SUSTIS targets also economical and social issues.

In essence, this project collects vast amount of sustainability information of materials and manufacturing processes from the supply chain. The idea is to explore the usability of sustainability arguments in shipbuilding and to generate new business based on the sustainability data. This all targets in securing the competitiveness of the Finnish shipbuilding industry.

– We are looking for ways to create sustainability-based added value for our customers. This will strengthen our competitiveness and creates more jobs within the industry, says **Jaana Hänninen**, Environmental Manager of Meyer Turku LTD.

The aim is to examine the whole lifecycle of the ship and to locate the most important factors from every phase to diminish the ship's sustainability effect.

– Shipowners, consumers and environmental organizations all alike are more and more interested in the sustainability and environmental responsibility and effects to the environment of the cruise travel, Hänninen continues.

The responsibility of the shipyards will be made comparable

With the data gathered, the cruise ship builders can be compared according to the responsibility of their actions. The project goal is also to increase transparency by identifying the important *sustainability indicators* relevant to marine industry and by researching how this meticulously and systematically gathered information can be transferred between the actors in the shipbuilding value chain

– It is not only about the relevant information and its gathering from different sources but also presenting it for the customer in a comprehensible format. This kind of information can be for example the origins of the raw materials, level of recycling and the energy consumption of the process. Many of these things are already known by an individual company, but the information is not delivered to the end-customers because it is rarely requested, says Project Manager Kaapo Seppälä from the Technology Research Center of the University of Turku.

Tekes project opens data for open platform

The Tekes-funded project is two-phased. The first phase will continue to the end of year 2016. It aims to identify the customers' key indicators of responsibility in shipyards' and subcontractors' activity and to pilot the transferability of this kind of data. If the results are encouraging, the second phase of the project will commence. Thereafter there are more companies joining the project and the aim is to systematise the data gathering and to open responsibility data to an open platform.

SUSTIS (Sustainability Transparency in Shipbuilding Networks) project partners are Meyer Turku Oy, and Technology Research Center, Centre for Collaborative Research and Finland Futures Research Centre from the University of Turku,. Also participating are SSAB Europe Oy, Naval Interior Team Oy, Piikkiö Works Oy and VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd.

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***Meyer Turku Oy** employs 1,500 persons and specializes in building highly complex, innovative and environmentally friendly cruise ships, car-passenger ferries and special vessels. Together with two sister shipyards in Germany, Meyer Werft in Papenburg and Neptun Werft in Rostock, Meyer Turku is one of the world's leading cruise ship builders. The successful shipbuilding tradition in Turku has been continuing since 1737. The company is currently building cruise ships for TUI Cruises and a fast ferry for Tallink. The company will also build two cruise ships for Costa Crociere. The design and construction of the ships are supported by the subsidiaries of Meyer Turku: Piikkiö Works Oy, which is a Cabin Factory in Piikkiö, Shipbuilding Completion Oy, which provides turnkey solutions to public spaces in ships, and ENG'nD Oy, which is an engineering company offering services for shipbuilding and offshore.*

*The project is coordinated by the **Technology Research Center (TRC)** at the **University of Turku**. The unit is focused on applied ICT sector R&D and commercialization of technological innovation, and has staff of approximately 70 persons. TRC has many joint projects with the players of marine sector, the topics varying from sensor technologies to augmented reality applications and information systems development. **Centre for Collaborative Research**, Turku School of Economics aims to enhance multidisciplinary research collaboration and to launch joint projects with industries. The **Finland Futures Research Centre** is a multidisciplinary academic research, training, and development organization whose main goal is to create a responsible and sustainable future.*