



New in Hamburg-Neuenfelde

Sietas shipyard and VOSTA LMG constructing dredgers for Josef Möbius Bau-AG

The Sietas shipyard in the Hamburg district of Neuenfelde is teaming up with German-Dutch company VOSTA LMG, one of the world's leading dredger technology companies, to construct two suction dredgers for Josef Möbius Bau-AG. The contract, which forms part of the shipyard's current order book of seven special-purpose ships, is a first for Sietas – never before have dredgers been manufactured at the Neuenfelde yard. A suitable schedule has been drawn up in partnership with Josef Möbius Bau-AG and VOSTA LMG to ensure the vessels, which were commissioned in the summer of 2008, are built in line with the new customer requirements.

In its capacity as a specialist in hydraulic engineering and harbour construction, Hamburg-based Josef Möbius Bau-AG moves a million cubic metres of earth every year, having more special equipment and capacities for that at its disposal than any comparable firm in Germany. The core fields of expertise for the company, whose projects have included the expansion of the Airbus works area and construction work on the fourth bore of the Elbe tunnel, also cover waterway construction, earthworks and civil engineering. Now Josef Möbius Bau-AG is expanding its own fleet with the two innovative, high-performing new dredgers. As the company's CEO Gerhard Raubenheimer explains, "We are the leading hydraulic engineering firm in Germany, and we are investing now so that our customers can continue to have faith in our main strength, which is the development of innovative solutions for highly complex construction projects. For us, Sietas is a partner that shares our Hanseatic traditions and continuous quest for innovation. VOSTA LMG will contribute the specialist expertise we need to ensure our new dredgers are competitive on the world stage."



Modular principle for two dredgers

Working in partnership, Sietas and VOSTA LMG will apply a modular design principle to the construction of the two different-sized suction dredgers. The ships will be developed on the basis of the many years of experience amassed by VOSTA LMG and Josef Möbius Bau-AG. The bow and stern sections will be identical for both ships, but the hopper volume for the larger of the dredgers will amount to 7,350 cubic metres compared to 5,550 cubic metres for the smaller vessel. In both cases, the draught will be 6.80 metres. The Sietas yard will carry out the detailed design and construction of the vessels; VOSTA LMG will supply the basic blueprint and the dredger components. “VOSTA LMG has more than 140 years’ of experience in designing and building dredgers. This represents a continual process of development and innovation brought about in close cooperation with our clients. We are happy to be collaborating with the Sietas shipyard, an equally proficient German partner. Together, we will guarantee the high quality and efficiency of the two special-purpose ships”, said Rudolf Dietze, Managing Director of VOSTA LMG.

The dredgers are capable of self-loading in less than an hour, transporting excavated sediments at a speed of 13 knots and then flushing or dumping the hold via the six (or eight) bottom valves. The ships are especially suitable for deepening and maintaining navigable channels as well as harbour excavation and land reclamation purposes. Both vessels have a suction tube of one metre in diameter which can reach depths of up to 30 metres. The dredgers run exclusively on diesel-electric power. Thanks to a new kind of power management system, the generators and electric motors (used for propulsion or the dredge pump drive, for example) are controlled in such a way as to minimise diesel consumption, wear and emissions. The vessels are capable of 24-hour operation with a 16-strong crew (comprising, for example, captain, officers, engineers, dredge master, electricians and deck crew).



New market segment for the Sietas shipyard

Thanks to the construction of the dredgers, the Sietas shipyard will make inroads into a market segment traditionally dominated by Asian and Dutch companies. “We are delighted that Josef Möbius Bau-AG has placed this contract with us. The decision to build the two suction dredgers at a shipyard in northern Germany shows trust in German shipbuilding expertise, and demonstrates faith in the experience of the Sietas yard”, said Rüdiger Fuchs, CEO for the Sietas Group in the Hamburg district of Neuenfelde. “For the Sietas yard, the contract represents another big step in the expansion of our service range. It ties in with our long-term strategy of building attractive, high-quality special-purpose ships that will deliver the benefits of high productivity and corresponding value creation to our clients.”

The two suction dredgers are scheduled for handover to Josef Möbius Bau-AG in summer 2010 and January 2012. The total order volume will be €90 million.

A 3D illustration of a suction dredger is available on request from the Sietas press office.

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