Peak shaving valletta



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As various marine sectors continue to make progress in the application of electrification, E& H Marine looks at what cruise operators and their suppliers are doing to bring electric power to these large-scale vessels - and the ports that welcome them.

The MSC World Europa officially inaugurated Valletta port"s shore power facility in July, making the Maltese capital"s shore power capability the first to be operational in the Mediterranean Sea. Valletta"s local power grid supplied electricity for all operations on board the 22-deck, LNG-powered vessel while the ship was berthed, to enable all engines to be switched off and eliminate direct emissions at the port.

"Shore power is one very important element of our continued commitment toward decarbonization, with most of our fleet equipped to eliminate local emissions and improve local air quality when the ships are at berth in port, and we can switch off their engines as local shoreside electricity powers the operation," says Michele Francioni, chief energy transition officer at MSC Cruises.

MSC Cruises aims to add at least 15 new ports to its shore power plan between 2024 and 2026. Among them are Barcelona and Valencia in Spain, Hamburg in Germany, Marseille in France, Copenhagen in Denmark, and Genoa, La Spezia, Civitavecchia, Naples and Trieste in Italy, plus the company's new cruise terminal in Miami, which will become fully operational in 2025.

Dutch shipyard Concordia Damen has signed a contract for the delivery of a River Cruise 135 vessel to a Swiss luxury river cruise company. The new ship will have hybrid propulsion for reduced fuel consumption and lower emissions, high insulation, laser-controlled ventilation and environmentally friendly materials used for the outfitting.

Concordia Damen has opted to build the River Cruise 135 to stock, with the next vessel already in the early stages of being built. After the hull is completed, the cruiser can be adapted in many ways to suit individual customers" needs.

"We are excited to partner with this leading Swiss operator to deliver our innovative River Cruise 135," says Johan Muilenburg, project manager at Concordia Damen. "This contract underscores our commitment to eco-friendly practices and excellence in shipbuilding. One of the features I like best is the fact that we"ve integrated solar panels in the railing, which are instrumental in charging the battery system. Another is that we"ve proven that this design needs significantly less power to sail under normal circumstances - a real fuel-and cost-saver."

The new River Cruise 135 is being outfitted with diesel-electric propulsion with smart peak shaving, a system being delivered by the yard"s long-time partner and system integrator, Oechies. Triton, the solution from

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Damen for data-driven efficiency, remote monitoring and predictive maintenance, adds extra operational reliability and reduced fuel consumption.

Germany-based cruise operator Phoenix Reisen has modernized the 205m, 835-passenger MS Amera. The vessel is now equipped with ABB"s Onboard DC Grid power system platform and shore connection for improved efficiency and safety and lower emissions. Following successful commissioning and sea trials, Amera has become the first cruise ship to be retrofitted with the ABB technologies.

"Our aim is to be a leader in sustainable cruising, providing unforgettable travel experiences in some of the world"s most beautiful locations while protecting fragile local ecosystems," says Johannes Zurnieden, founder and CEO of Phoenix Reisen. "We are working toward more efficient and environmentally friendly operations across our fleet, and having completed the modernization of Amera together with ABB, we are confident we are on the right track to achieve this."

ABB"s shore connection system will help Amera reduce emissions when in port. Typically, shore connection can help reduce the daily emissions of cruise ships by 35% when they are docked eight hours per day. The onboard power setup will be managed by ABB"s integrated power and energy management system, which will ensure optimal use of the vessel"s power resources.

An industry partnership between Miami-Dade county, Florida Power & Light Company and several cruise lines (including Carnival) has seen PortMiami become the first major cruise port on the US eastern seaboard to offer shore power connections at five cruise berths. Carnival Conquest was chosen as the first vessel to use the new charging connection.

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