EGCSs retrofit for emissions compliance

INTERVIEW BY
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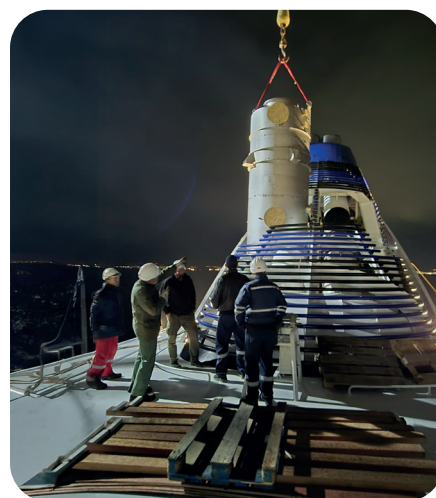VP Technical - Optimum Shipmanagement Services S.A.

The installation

During the first phase the vendors made access to the funnel, removed the exhaust pipes and silencers, and installed the two new scrubber (EGCS) towers.

The second phase included the drydock of the vessel and the installation of new sea chest and overboard discharges for wash water.

The collaboration among Ecospray, installer (Seaquest), Classification Society (DNV) and owners (Celestyal) was smooth. It is very important that the project was completed on time and that we were able to operate the units with the commencement of vessel's operation.

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The Rationale

What were the evaluations behind the decision to install scrubbers (EGCS) vis a vis other solutions?

The Mediterranean e Marpol will become an ECA area (MARPOL Annex VI), from May 1st, 2025. That means that the sulphur requirements at sea and at port will be reduced to 0.1%. Scrubber (EGCS) is the most efficient way to accomplish the new Sulphur limits.

We have evaluated other solutions including the use of compliant fuels (MGO or ULVSFO). The main benefit of the scrubber (EGCS) is the lower CAPEX and shorter payback period, compared to other solutions.

The Drivers

Why did you decide to install scrubbers?

That was a commercial request at first, considering the price difference between VLSFO and HFO.

The premium of ULFO will further increase with the establishment of Sulphur ECA area in the Mediterranean, under MARPOL convention.

We are also looking to regulatory changes and to make our assets future proof thus the next step would be to look for upgrade solutions ie include Carbon Capture technology.

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Why did you choose Ecospray?

We chose Ecospray for uniformity with the other vessels of the fleet.

The other vessels of the fleet are equipped with three scrubber towers from the same maker and our experience with the operation of the systems and support is very satisfactory.