

Press Release

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Thordon Bearings to supply the ‘most luxurious ship ever built’ with seawater-lubricated COMPAC system

Thordon Bearings has received an order through its Italian distributor Pedrotec to supply a seawater-lubricated COMPAC propeller shaft bearing package to *Seven Seas Explorer*, the 56,000gt cruiseship under construction at Fincantieri’s Sestri Ponente shipyard.

The *Seven Seas Explorer*, Regent Seven Seas’ first newbuild contracted to Fincantieri, has been designed to set new standards in both passenger comfort and environmental protection.

Craig Carter, Director of Marketing, Thordon Bearings, said: “The award of this prestigious contract marks a number of firsts for Regent Seven Seas. Not only will *Seven Seas Explorer* be the most luxurious cruiseship ever built, it will exceed already stringent marine environmental regulations and be the owner’s first Fincantieri newbuild. We are delighted that Regent Seven Seas has selected our COMPAC system, the first water-lubricated propeller shaft system for the cruise line.

“More and more shipowners are realising that water-lubricated propeller shaft systems not only meet US EPA rules governing the use of Environmentally Acceptable Lubricants (EAL) but can also substantially reduce operational costs, since seawater-lubricated bearing technology negates the purchase, storage and disposal of costly mineral and synthetic oils.”

The US Environmental Protection Agency is enforcing regulations introduced in December 2013 that stipulate that all vessels over 24m operating in US waters must switch over to EALs in all oil-to-sea interfaces before their next dry docking.

“When used in conjunction with the COMPAC bearing system, seawater – an approved EAL – lubricates the bearings to ensure the smooth, effective and safe operation of the vessel. Not only do we guarantee our seawater-lubricated system for a wear life of fifteen years, but it reduces a shipowner’s annual operating and maintenance costs substantially, compared to an EAL-lubricated metal bearing and two seal system,” continued Carter.

The 238m long *Seven Seas Explorer*, scheduled for delivery in summer 2016, will become the cruise line's flagship vessel, with accommodation for 738 passengers over 369 suites.

ENDS

About Thordon Bearings

A worldwide leader in seawater lubricated propeller shaft bearing systems with over 25 years' experience in this technology, Thordon Bearings designs and manufactures a complete range of non-metallic sleeve bearing solutions for marine, clean power generation, pump, offshore oil, and other industrial markets. The polymer bearings operate pollution free without oil or grease. Thordon Bearings is the only manufacturer of propeller shaft bearings to guarantee its COMPAC system for a 15 year wear life.