



THORDON BEARINGS INC.

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PRESS RELEASE (DRAFT)

30 May 2017

TROPICAL SHIPPING NEWBUILDS OPT FOR THORDON SEAWATER LUBRICATED PROPELLER SHAFT PACKAGE

Thordon Bearings' Jacksonville-based Distributor Coppedge Marine has secured an order with Tropical Shipping for the award-winning COMPAC seawater lubricated propeller shaft bearing system.

The COMPAC systems destined for two 300TEU environmentally-compliant box ships under construction in China, at the Guangzhou Huangpu Wenchong Shipyard, will represent a first reference for COMPAC with this shipowner.

"Tropical Shipping is a long-standing customer to whom we have supplied various Thordon equipment over the years," said Ed Coppedge, Managing Director, Coppedge Marine. "We have often discussed the benefits of seawater lubricated propeller shaft systems with the shipowner so are delighted that we can now add the COMPAC system to our scope of supply.

"A key factor in us winning the order was being able to offer a proven, reliable system capable of meeting the U.S. EPA's Vessel General Permit Rules. When these new reefer containerships join Tropical's fleet in June 2018, they will operate in US waters between Florida, the Bahamas and the Caribbean."

Erwin Holder, General Manager Vessel Construction, Tropical Shipping said: "We have an established relationship with Coppedge, which has supplied Thordon rudder bearings to a number of vessels in the Tropical fleet. Our experience with these bearings and the confidence we have in Thordon systems, in general, meant COMPAC was a no brainer for us. These new 300-TEU vessels will have a raft of equipment designed to protect the environment, so COMPAC fits well with our environmental sustainability goals. A seawater lubricated propeller shaft bearing installation means there will be zero risk of these vessels leaking oil into the sea."

In addition to the COMPAC polymer bearings, the Tropical Shipping package includes Thordon's Inconel[®]-equivalent shaft liners, Thor-Shield shaft coating systems, Thordon Water Quality Packages and a wear down poker gauge assembly.

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“We were very involved in the specification to ensure that we were able to offer Thordon’s 15-year bearing wear life guarantee, which was an important requirement for the owner,” said Coppedge. “To offer this Thordon has to take the lead on the shaft installation to ensure it is properly protected and that the water flowing to the bearings is of sufficient quality.”

In concert with Coppedge, Thordon’s Chinese distributor CY Engineering will work with the shipyard to ensure the system is installed correctly and optimise the plant to meet Thordon’s 15-year wear life guarantee requirements.

Sam Williams, Thordon Bearings’ Regional Manager, Eastern Asia”, said: “Orders such as this require close cooperation between our representative looking after the shipowner and our distributor working with the shipbuilder. When we receive new orders, we approach both parties and work to achieve a preference on the part of the owner, and a commercial/technical agreement with the yard. This can be a process which goes through many iterations, depending on the owner’s involvement and on the preferences of the shipyard.

“In this case, CY Engineering will be responsible for all detailed technical/engineering work with the shipyard and supervise the installation and commissioning processes. CY is also the contract partner for Thordon and will supply all Thordon deliverables for the project in July.”

The Guangzhou Huangpu Wenchong Shipyard will also build four 1100TEU containerships, each of which will be powered by a MAN B&W 6S60ME-C8.5 main engine driving a five-bladed VBS1550-5 Mk5 CP propeller in a COMPAC seawater lubricated shaft bearing arrangement.

Tropical Shipping’s new vessels will form part of a wider fleet expansion programme designed to improve service levels between West Palm Beach, FL., Halifax, Canada and the Bahamas and Caribbean.

Picture Caption:

TBA

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About Thordon Bearings

A global leader in seawater lubricated propeller shaft bearing systems, with over 35 years' experience in this technology, Thordon Bearings is renowned for supplying high performance, oil and grease-free bearing systems to the global marine, clean energy, pump and offshore markets. Thordon Bearings is the only manufacturer of propeller shaft bearings to guarantee its award-winning COMPAC system for a 15-year wear-life. Thordon systems and bearings are available worldwide through over 85 agents and distributors.

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