Two-year ship trial confirms Selektope® antifouling power

A twenty-four-month trial of a hull coating containing the bio-repellent active agent Selektope® on a 46,067dwt chemical and products carrier has confirmed the antifouling ingredient's hard fouling prevention power.

Selektope® is an organic, non-metal compound that works to prevent barnacle fouling by temporarily activating the swimming behaviour of barnacle cyprid larvae, making it impossible for them to settle on the hull. It is characterized by high efficacy at extremely low concentrations (0.1% w/w), is ultra-low leaching and offers paint manufacturers the flexibility to boost copper-based paint formulations or replace copper completely.

In 2015, the vertical sides and flat bottom of Laurin Maritime's vessel *Calypso* were fully coated with an antifouling coating containing Selektope® during its first five-year drydock. The vessel has spent two years in active operation across a wide range of trade routes, with more than 50% of operating time spent in biofouling hotspots with > 25°C (up to 32°C) temperatures.

Independent hull and propeller performance analysis has verified that after twenty-four months *Calypso's* increased total resistance was calculated to be 7%, compared with a benchmark new vessel that would see an increase in resistance of 10-20%. Over the period, speed losses experienced by *Calypso* amounted to a mere 2% when measured against sea trial performance. Data also confirmed that the development rate of added resistance for *Calypso* amounted to 0.1 % (0.5% to 1.5% is expected).

A recent underwater hull inspection established that *Calypso's* hull is very clean, with divers finding no soft or hard fouling over the starboard and portside verticals, flat bottom and bilge areas.

Laurin Maritime's technical director Bertil Andersson says: "The vessel has now operated for two years since last dry dock, and we can conclude that the fouling of the hull (read added hull resistance) remains at a very low level and the trend continues being flat."

I-Tech CEO Philip Chaabane says: "This independent analysis of performance data and the underwater hull inspection provide convincing long-term performance results from a full-vessel application of a Selektope®-containing hull coating for a vessel with significant exposure to severe fouling conditions. The fact that the hull fouling trend continues to be flat means that our general outlook on the continuous performance of the Selektope®-containing coating is very positive. This delivers the proof required that our unique antifouling ingredient can offer ship operators guaranteed hard fouling prevention performance for any vessel activity and trading patterns."

With multiple major coatings suppliers now turning to Selektope® to enhance their products, I-Tech AB is urging ship owners to check whether the ingredient is available in all antifoulings being considered as part of the coatings selection process.

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About Selektope®
Selektope® introduces, for the first time, a pharmacological mode of action to combat barnacle settlement. By temporarily stimulating the octopamine receptor, the barnacle larvae's swimming behavior is activated and the organisms are deterred from the hull. These ground-breaking discoveries enable unrivalled power at very low concentrations, yet within the limits of rigorous risk assessments. Selektope® is an organic, non-metal compound with efficacy proven at 0.1% w/w.

About I-Tech AB
I-Tech is a Gothenburg based bio-tech company with global reach, holding all IP and regulatory rights to the antifouling agent Selektope® (generic name, medetomidine). The company is privately held and is supported by Swedish Energy Association, the European Innovation Initiative Eco-Innovation and FP7 SeaFront. The company is a member of the Astra Zeneca BioVentureHub.

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