Friday, June 4, 2021



# Partners to test biofuel decarbonization

by The Editorial Team — June 3, 2021 in Fuels

potential



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d'Amico Group, Trafigura, ABS, RINA, LR FOBAS, the Liberian Registry and MAN Energy Solutions team up to launch a decarbonization project with Lifecycle strategy.

The JIP will also calculate possible CO2 emissions reduction through a "Lifecycle strategy", using the so called well-to-wheel (WTW) analysis, from raw material acquisition to its burning while the ship is underway, to compare the performance of biofuels to traditional fossil fuels.

Moreover, the project will assess the stability and degradation of the biofuel in relation to storage time and NOx emissions to confirm that the use of biofuel B30 will not affect the Tier II certification of the engines, and to measure the effects and improvements on EEXI and CII indexes adopted as short-term measures by the IMO.

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The tests will take place on d'Amico's vessels, Cielo Bianco and Cielo di Rotterdam and the low carbon alternative fuel of second generation (EU renewable energy directive (Red I/II) compliant and ISSC certified) will be supplied by leading bunkering supply company TFG Marine in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp (ARA) region.

The pre-trial phase of the project started in March 2021 when details of the nature and composition of the biofuel blends were made available and the establishment of the protocols relating to fuel testing, inspections, NOx measurement and the sea trials. It was also necessary to prepare the risk assessment, the MOC, to adapt the swap procedures and to develop a consistent crew training program.

The second phase, the trials on board the vessels, is planned for mid-June 2021, in accordance with the planned trade routes of the vessels. This phase will start as soon as the bunkering is completed, and all protocols have been defined and approved by the OEM and the class societies involved.

The trial phase will monitor the behaviour of the main engine, the diesel generators and the boilers in burning the biofuel blend, to evaluate operation, performance, and fuel storage capability. NOx will also be measured.

In the post-trial phase, the reported emissions will be processed and analysed with particular focus on CO2 and NOx and their effects on the EEXI and CII, according to the existing draft guidelines.

The project ending is planned for mid July 2021.

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"Shipping needs a GHG lifecycle approach to decarbonize itself. In line with our vision, we decided to do such step in the common direction to reduce the carbon foot print by assessing the biofuels as potential low carbon fuel of the future and its effect on the short terms measures adopted by the IMO. This project by confirming the technical/safety feasibility in burning the biofuel blends as "drop in" solution, will demonstrate that we have a practical and viable option for the decarbonization which can be handled easily by the crew with no impact on the Nox emissions and without any modification on board"

Cesare D'Api, Deputy Technical Director at d'Amico Group.

Additionally, Georgios Plevrakis, ABS Director, Global Sustainability, noted that carbon-neutral biofuels could offer significant benefits to the marine sector's drive to decarbonize operations, with Giosuè Vezzuto, EVP Marine at RINA Services, highlighting that this trial is proof that the industry as a whole is committed to act and make the transition effective immediately.

What is more, a recent study on the upcoming FuelEU Maritime proposal finds that a promotion of biofuels may raise serious enforcement concerns, as a mandatory fuel standard is aimed to apply to fuels purchased also outside the EU.

To remind, the FuelEU Maritime is an initiative launched in early 2021 by the European Commission with the aim to increase the use of sustainable alternative fuels in European shipping and ports and drive decarbonization and sustainability within the industry.

According to the study, prepared by Dr Edmund Hughes, Green Marine Associates Ltd., FuelEU Maritime raises a number of important issues that will require careful consideration by the EU institutions:

- #2. Emphasis on use of biofuels
- #3. Focusing compliance on ship operators will make enforcement challenging
- #4. Practicality of another carbon trading scheme (on top of ETS)
- #5. Reaction of non-EU States



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