JetBrief

JetBrief No. 365
August 2004

Location: Portugal **Service**: Passenger Ferry **Waterjet Model:** HM811

TYPE:
DFF 4912
SERVICE:
Passenger Ferry
LENGTH:
49.20 metres [LOA]
BEAM:
12.30 metres
DRAUGHT:
1.58 metres
CONSTRUCTION:
Aluminium
CAPACITY:
600 Passengers
4 Crew
SPEED:
25 knots (operational)
30 knots (90% MCR)
WATERJETS:
Twin Hamilton Model HM811
ENGINES:
Twin MTU diesel engines
1st four – Model 16V 4000 M70, each 2320kW (3110hp) @ 2000rpm
Rest – Model 12V 4000 M70, each 1740kW (2335hp) @ 2000rpm
GEARBOXES:
Twin Reintjes WVS 930
BUILDER:
Damen Shipyards Singapore
OWNER/OPERATOR:
Sociedade Fluvial de Transportes SA (Soflusa), Lisbon, Portugal
HamiltonJet DISTRIBUTORS:
• Wealco Equipment, Singapore
• Electro Central Vulcanizadora (ECV), Lisbon, Portugal

Nine 49m HamiltonJet Powered Fast Ferries for Lisbon

Over 35 million passengers cross Portugal's River Tagus each year, making it one of the world's busiest waterways. Nine new high-speed, low-wash catamaran ferries, each powered by twin Hamilton HM811 waterjets, are now in service helping to reduce both crossing times and ongoing operational costs for state-owned ferry operator Soflusa.

Soflusa (Sociedade Fluvial de Transportes SA) operates a ferry service between the north and south sides of the Tagus River in Lisbon. The new 600 passenger vessels halve crossing times compared to the previous conventional ferries, and provide an important link for commuters and travellers through the city.

Twin Hamilton HM811 waterjets are used on all nine ferries, the first four boats driven by 2,320kW MTU engines. This combination of engine and waterjet gives high acceleration and top speed well above the allowed 25 knots. Different performance requirements for the final five vessels meant the engines could be replaced with the 12 cylinder 1740 kW model – improving fuel efficiency while still achieving the required service speed. In this very heavy usage operation, using waterjets significantly reduces vessel maintenance requirements and downtime, and gives flexibility for use on alternative routes.

The vessels each have a three station Hamilton MECS control system, adding to the excellent manoeuvrability provided by twin waterjets – an essential requirement for the operation of a large catamaran ferry.

Another major strength of HamiltonJet in such projects is the company's international representation, which provided local support for the boatbuilder and gives Soflusa a single point for after sales responsibility via Hamilton's Portuguese distributor ECV.

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