



A new Swedish field of expertise is emerging in the efforts of decarbonizing maritime transport.

Meatballs, ABBA and Methanol Powered Ships

Sweden is among other things famous for Swedish meatballs and ABBA. And the latest Swedish export success might be methanol powered ships. The introduction of methanol as marine fuel for large ships and smaller vessels such as GreenPilot is ground breaking and has been recognized internationally.

Writers GreenPilot project partners
Photo ScandiNAOS

The GreenPilot project has successfully demonstrated biomethanol as a fuel for smaller vessels. The solution is applicable for vessels such as pilot boats, road ferries, search and rescue boats, coast guard vessels, commuter ferries and inland waterway vessels. The project is co-funded by the Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish Maritime Administration and Methanol Institute and is led by Swedish Maritime Technology Forum.

An important benefit of methanol is that it eliminates the sulphur oxide and soot emissions associated with oil based fuels and drastically reduces the NOx emission associated with diesel. No sulphur oxide, no soot and almost no NOx also mean that the particular matter (PM) emissions are reduced to

very low levels. By using methanol produced from renewable feedstocks the net emissions of greenhouse gases are to a large extent eliminated. Converting or replacing the engines of a fleet to methanol operation is a cost-effective way to improve the local air quality and to comply with the coming emission rules.

The benefits of methanol are also being explored in other parts of the world, particularly in China and India. The Chinese company Zhejiang Geely Holding Group which is the owner of Volvo, has a very extensive program for methanol cars and has delivered thousands to large fleet operators such as taxi companies in China.

The work that has been done in Sweden to introduce methanol as

marine fuel for large ships such as Stena Germanica and smaller vessels such as GreenPilot is ground breaking and has been recognized internationally. Not least in India where Stena, Wartsila (maker of the engines fitted in Stena Germanica) and ScandiNAOS, technical project lead of GreenPilot, have been invited to participate in the development of an Indian methanol operated fleet as a part of a government program launched to improve the infrastructure and tackle the growing concerns of air pollution.

GreenPilot has paved the way both technically and from a regulatory perspective for small methanol fueled vessels with a low environmental impact and the project has further profiled Sweden as a cutting edge player in green propulsion.

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Would you like to read more about the GreenPilot project?

Visit www.greenpilot.se

