

The Hull Assembly of the New Finnish Icebreaker started at Arctech Helsinki Shipyard

The building of the Icebreaker for the Finnish Transport Agency started on March 4th, 2015 in the honor of the 150th Anniversary of Helsinki Shipyard. The first keel block was layed down to the bottom of the shipbuilding dock by the festive traditions.

The ship being built at the Helsinki Shipyard represents a new generation of icebreaker design. The unique ship of 110 meters will be, when delivered, the most environmentally friendly icebreaker in the world. The icebreaker will be powered by both diesel and LNG, i.e. liquefied natural gas, which reduces both emissions and fuel costs. The new icebreaker is designed especially for operations in the most demanding icebreaking conditions in the Baltic Sea. In addition, the ship will be able to perform oil spill response operations and emergency towing under demanding conditions. The icebreaker will be delivered to the customer in the beginning of 2016.

“This keel laying is particularly important for us, because it has been almost thirty years since we last started a hull assembly for a Finnish icebreaker in our shipyard. Today we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the shipyard and we will move to the era of next generation icebreakers”, comments the **Managing Director of Arctech Helsinki Shipyard, Esko Mustamäki**.

Helsinki shipyard celebrates today its 150 years of shipbuilding. The shipyard operations started on March 4th in 1865 when Helsingfors Skeppsdocka was authorized to establish a shipyard in Hietalahti. The shipyard is known as a forerunner in Finnish shipbuilding, a considerable employer as well as a part of the history and scenery of City of Helsinki. Today at the same location, Arctech Helsinki Shipyard continues the tradition of Finnish shipbuilding combined with modern high-class know-how.

At the moment Arctech is building six icebreaking vessels. The first vessel, a Baltic icebreaker for the Russian Ministry of Transport, is due to be delivered in autumn 2015. The second vessel, the world’s first LNG-powered icebreaker for the Finnish Transport Agency, will be delivered by the beginning of 2016. In spring 2014 Arctech was awarded a contract to build an icebreaking supply vessel for the Russia’s largest shipping company Sovcomflot. In early summer, Arctech received an additional order of three icebreaking stand-by vessels. Arctech’s order book now extends until summer 2017.

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Arctech Helsinki Shipyard Inc. specializes in arctic shipbuilding technology, e.g. building icebreakers and other arctic offshore and special vessels. The shipyard is a forerunner in developing and applying technological innovations and has 150 years’ experience in shipbuilding. Arctech employs approximately 500 shipbuilders. www.arctech.fi