

Calmly riding the rollers on a stormy sea

Bosch Rexroth technology for supply ships: new roll stabilization opens up opportunities in growing markets

Hanover | bär | It is important to remain calm in troubled waters. This will no longer be a problem for offshore supply ships needing to spend a long time moored alongside platforms. A new stabilization system, developed by Voith AG (Germany) in cooperation with Bosch Rexroth and German company Esders, minimizes the rolling of a ship.

Supply ships bring food, drinking water, and other important items to offshore oil platforms. They also take away rinse water and drilling water, neither of which can be dumped at sea in accordance with environmental regulations. So the longer the supply ship can spend safely alongside the platform, the better.

Compensatory thrust

The innovative new system provides active roll stabilization via the Voith Schneider Propeller. The first ship to be fitted with this solution, the Norwegian MV *Edda Fram*, is powered by two of these propellers fixed to the floor of the ship, each of which is driven by an



electric motor with an output of 2,500 kilowatts. This main drive generates a powerful thrust in each direction, as well as an extra thrust to counteract the roll. Bosch Rexroth

supplies the electronic ship controls, the controls for the bridge, and the drive unit and hydraulic cylinder controls that are used to set the strength and direction of the thrust. And the system works.



Norwegian supply vessel *Edda Fram* was the first ship to put to sea with the new Voith roll stabilization system. The inset above left shows the Bosch Rexroth controls on the bridge.

Photo: BRP

Even with five-meter waves rolling in every 15 seconds, the pitching and tossing is almost completely suppressed.

Competent and reliable

“Bosch Rexroth has proved itself to be a competent and reliable system supplier during this project,” remarks Norman Südekum from Technical Sales in the Rexroth

shipping technology division in Hanover-Laatzten. The offshore supply vessel market is growing, with new platforms increasingly being built far out at sea and in rough waters such as the Arctic Ocean. The system is also ideal for ferries, harbor tugs, and cable layers. Voith and Bosch Rexroth are perfectly equipped to ride on a wave of success.

Bosch Rexroth: Growth in sales over recent years

Bosch Rexroth AG is enjoying a sharp upward trend: Its sales increased from €4.9 billion to €5.4 billion over the past year, representing growth of approximately 8.8 percent. The main focus areas were Europe, China, and India. This growth also had an effect on jobs. The number of associates employed by the Bosch subsidiary worldwide rose from 29,800 in 2006 to almost 33,000 in 2007. Bosch Rexroth invested €377 million during the fiscal year. Bosch Rexroth President Albert Hieronimus released these figures at an accounts press conference held during the Hanover Trade Fair in Germany, where the hot topics at the

exhibition stand were energy efficiency and safety for machinery and equipment. Hieronimus also announced that Bosch Rexroth would be investing heavily in expanding its capacities in 2008.

In EUR billion

