



7 – NATIONAL MATTERS

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National Matters Update by
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A New Generation of Germany's Multi Purpose Vessel Fleet

The German Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration has commissioned a small 'fleet' of a new generation of Multi Purpose Vessels for tasks including AtoN management, open-sea tug boat operations, and marine pollution combat to replace the existing vessels in service. The first of its kind - MPV Scharhörn - has been delivered and introduced into service very recently. Another two vessels are already being built and equipped and will arrive the next years. A brief presentation introduces the features of this new generation of the German admin's MPVs.

Key specifications are as follows:

- Displacement: 7,000 tonnes at a draught of 5.50 metres
- Engine power: 13,200 kilowatts
- Speed: 16 knots
- Sweeping arms capable of skimming oil from the water's surface
- Chemical-resistant stainless steel cargo tanks for taking on board all types of liquids from damaged vessels
- Firefighting equipment for the specialist maritime firefighting units from the professional fire services of the coastal states, to be deployed by air
- Fire monitors for maritime firefighting
- Emergency medical room for treating the injured
- Citadel – a gas-tight, enclosed area in which work can be carried out even in explosive or toxic atmospheres.

The ships are powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG). LNG burns more cleanly and emits significantly less carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide. To this end, the ships are equipped with a gas-electric propulsion system. This consists of a gas engine that drives a generator, thereby supplying power to the propulsion motors.

With a bollard pull (towing capacity) of 145 tonnes, the new vessels are significantly more powerful than their predecessors and are therefore capable of towing even larger vessels in distress.

A helicopter landing pad enables the rapid and flexible deployment of emergency personnel and equipment. The vessels are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment for oil spill response, firefighting and medical care.

The new multi-purpose vessels are equipped with two Azipod propulsion systems, as well as a pumpjet and a bow thruster. The Azipod propulsion systems allow for flexible manoeuvring in all directions. The pumpjet is a specialised jet propulsion system that allows the vessel to be manoeuvred with precision. The system is complemented by the bow thruster, which makes navigation particularly easier. This combination of state-of-the-art propulsion technologies makes the new vessels particularly powerful and versatile.