



Sidebar: The Next Generation of Green Vessels

In late June, the CMA CGM Figaro made its maiden call at the Port of Los Angeles. With a capacity of 8,500 TEUs, the vessel is not only the largest of the company's containerships to call the port, it's also one of the most environmentally-friendly.

One key feature of the Figaro is the Fast Oil Recovery System, which would significantly reduce the leakage of bunker fuel from the ship's tanks if there was ever an accidental sinking or grounding. The system relies on a strategic network of pipes that facilitates the fast recovery of the fuel and oil contained in the ship's tanks without having to open a hole in the hull. Initially designed for oil tankers, the Fast Oil Recovery System was adapted to containerships due to the joint efforts of CMA CGM's New Building Department and the French company JLMD Ecologic Group.

In addition, like all new CMA CGM vessels, the Figaro is equipped with a new generation compactor for extensive waste management, thereby eliminating the need for incinerators.

The CMA CGM Figaro is also a miser when it comes to fuel, which is a good thing when you consider that the cost of fuel makes up roughly half of a vessel's operating costs. An electronic injection engine reduces fuel and oil consumption (by 3 percent and 25 percent respectively) while simultaneously making the vessel better able to adjust to the company's slow steaming policy. Meanwhile, the vessel's twisted leading edge rudder optimizes the flow of water, considerably reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

"Protection of the environment is an integral part of the company's strategy, and is highlighted by the actions taken to minimize the impact of the Group's activities and to support the development of new, more economic and ecologically sound solutions," stated Frank J. Baragona, President of CMA CGM America.

The Figaro will be active in the company's Bohai Rim Service, which calls the Chinese ports of Dalian, Tianjin Xingang, Shanghai WGQ, Shanghai Yangshan, and Ningbo, as well as the U.S. West Coast ports of Los Angeles and Oakland. - Lara L. Sowinski