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HH Ferries invests SEK 300 million to reduce emissions and improve Öresund environment

HH Ferries Group has decided to convert the two ferries Tycho Brahe and Aurora to battery operation as part of the company's environmental strategy. Before the end of 2017, batteries providing forward propulsion will thus be installed on the two ferries which, therefore, will benefit Öresund's environment and the surrounding area.

It is an inherent part of HH Ferries' strategy to actively safeguard the environment, and the ferry company has already since 2007 adhered to the emission regulation which was introduced in 2015. The conversion from the current diesel-operated ferries to battery power is another important step towards ensuring greener ferry operations, and the initiative will lower total emissions by more than 50%, improving the regional environment.

"As a provider of critical transport infrastructure for the region, we are always looking for ways to reduce the environmental footprint of our operations. Aurora and Tycho Brahe are in operation 24 hours per day, so this investment will have a significant positive impact," said CEO of HH Ferries, Henrik Rørbæk.

The ferry company is among the first in the world to convert to 100% battery power on such large vessels which are used for a high-frequency route such as Helsingborg-Helsingör.

Following the conversion, the vessels' time in port and crossing time will remain unchanged compared to today's service. The vessels will be charged at each port stay with electricity supplied from newly built charging stations.

The conversion is the largest single investment project in the company's history with an estimated cost of nearly SEK 300 million. INEA, the EU's executive agency for innovation and network, has chosen to support the project with approximately SEK 120 million. The EU grant has been a decisive precondition for the decision to invest in conversion to the new technology.

"We are delighted and proud to receive the support and grant from INEA. The investment will benefit the local environment and hopefully strengthen the integration efforts in the Öresund region, and travellers will experience the same levels of regularity that they are used to combined with cleaner air and a reduced noise level," Henrik Rørbæk said.

HH Ferries will assess the experience from establishing battery operations on the first two vessels and then consider whether and how the ferry company's other vessels may be fitted into the green profile on the route.

The entire process of converting the two vessels to battery operations may be followed on HH Ferries' website and in the quarterly reporting distributed by the company. The first modifications of the vessels will be undertaken in the autumn of 2016, and the installation of batteries will take place in 2017. The conversion project will be completed in collaboration with ABB Marine and Ports, Finland, Forsyning Helsingør and Öresundskraft.

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About Scandlines Helsingborg-Helsingör

Scandlines Helsingborg-Helsingör is an efficient ferry route, transporting up to 50,000 passengers and 9,000 cars across Öresund on a daily basis with departures every fifteen minutes. The modern vessels on the route offer travellers a short travel time of 20 minutes and a pleasant break with the option of shopping at low prices and enjoying a wide selection of food and beverages on board.

In 2015, Scandlines Helsingborg-Helsingör transported 7.4 million passengers and 1.4 million cars, 390,000 trucks and 20,000 buses, corresponding to around 20% of the vehicles crossing Öresund^[1]. The route promotes integration and growth in the Öresund region, and is operated by 750 employees. It operates on a daily basis to ensure an efficient connection between Denmark and Sweden with a view of making travellers' crossing as pleasant and efficient as possible. The route furthermore contributes to generating up to 2,000 jobs in the region.

www.hhferriesgroup.com

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^[1] *The total number of transported vehicles on the connections Scandlines Helsingborg-Helsingör and the Öresund Bridge.*