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Engine makers collaborate in milestone project

06 Jul 2015

A major cross-industry initiative led by Wärtsilä, MAN Diesel & Turbo and Winterthur Gas & Diesel (WinGD) has been launched to develop basic technologies for use in two- and four-stroke marine engines.

The Hercules-2 project, partly funded by the EU, is aimed at fostering environmentally sustainable and more efficient shipping. Altogether, 32 marine industry partners from 11 different companies, 16 universities, and five research organisations are cooperating in the project, with NTU Athens as coordinator.

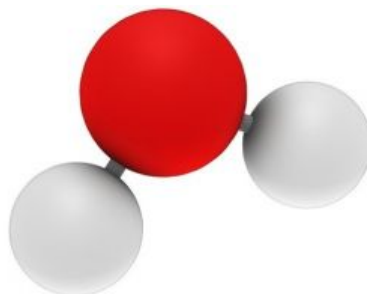
The R&D efforts focus on four main areas: The application of alternative fuels and the optimisation of fuel flexibility to facilitate seamless switching between different fuels; the development of new materials to support high-temperature component applications; the development of adaptive control methodologies to significantly improve an engine's performance throughout its life span; and to achieve near-zero emissions via combined, integrated, after-treatment of exhaust gases.

"The greatest of the many benefits stemming from Hercules-2 will be the development of new technologies that have a positive impact on our customers' profitability. Another is the significant contribution this project will make to more environmentally sustainable shipping," says Ilari Kallio, vice president, R&D, Engines, Wärtsilä.

Søren H. Jensen, vice president and head of R&D at MAN Diesel & Turbo added: "Hercules-2 is a strong platform that will create a basis for the development of technologies applicable to ship engines in four to five years' time. We have, therefore, positive expectations and look forward to collaborating with so many cross-industry partners."

Rien Hoogerbrugge, vice president R&D at WinGD, commented: "This project enables the partners to combine know-how by bringing together scientists from various fields and institutions to investigate concepts, and to develop robust technologies for application on different types of engines. We are pleased to be part of the Hercules consortium and we are looking forward to jointly developing environmentally friendly products for a sustainable future of merchant shipping."

The Hercules-2 project is scheduled to run for three years. It represents the follow-up phase of the Hercules R&D programme for large engine technologies, which was originally conceived in 2004 by Wärtsilä and MAN Diesel & Turbo. The Hercules-2 technologies will eventually be employed aboard large ships.



The second Hercules project follows a three-stage collaboration running between engine makers and other collaborators since 2004

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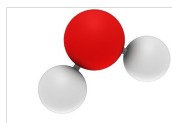


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