„Investment into Flettner-Rotor pays off“

December 6, 2018 - The performance of the EcoFlettner, which has been tested on the MV Fehn Pollux since July, clearly exceeds the expectations of the scientists. "The data we have evaluated so far significantly outmatch those of our model calculations," says Professor Michael Vahs, who has been researching the topic of wind propulsion for seagoing vessels at the University of Applied Science Emden / Leer for more than 15 years. "In perfect conditions, this prototype delivers more thrust than the main engine."

15 companies from around Leer have been involved in the development and construction of the sailing system. The whole project is funded by the EU and coordinated by Mariko in Leer. The rotor is 18 meters high and has a diameter of three meters. After lengthy test runs ashore, the rotor is now being tested under real conditions aboard 90-meter-long multi-purpose freighter MV Fehn Pollux.

The University of Applied Sciences has developed a purpose-made measuring and control system for this project, which enables scientists to gather transparent and reliable performance data. „For the first time we are able to get precise thrust measurements for a Flettner rotor,” says Professor Vahs.

On board MV Fehn Pollux more than 50 different data are continuously collected and computed in real time by the Flettner control system on the bridge. The computer uses the data to calculate the optimum settings for the rotor under the current conditions. "The longer the trial lasts and the more data we get, the more accurate the results will be," says Professor Vahs, who has been with the project from the beginning. „But the data gathered so far allows us to say, that the EcoFlettner saves a noticeable amount of fuel. We are also able to prove, that for ship owners the investment into this sailing system is worth considering, because it pays off in a few years."

For information about the EcoFlettner please click here

If you are interested in more information about the project please contact

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Fehn Ship Management is part of EMS-Fehn-Group which consists of 23 companies with offices in Leer, Bremen, Hamburg, Lübeck, Dortmund, Bergen, Riga, Bolzano, Palermo, Rijeka, Durres, Skopje and Ft. Lauderdale. EMS-Fehn-Group is active in chartering, logistics, heavy haulage,
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