

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE 15th. IIW SHIPBUILDING MEETING IN AIMEN, VIGO, SPAIN (1 & 2 DEC. 2009)

**WELCOME TO THE 15th MEETING OF THE IIW SELECT COMMITTEE ON SHIPBUILDING
in VIGO, SPAIN, ON DECEMBER, 1st and 2nd, 2009**

We are very pleased to drop our anchor for this meeting in Vigo, Galicia, in the North of Spain, on the Atlantic Ocean.

AIMEN TECHNOLOGY CENTRE has invited the IIW-Ship for the organization of the 15th meeting, claiming that the shipyards in Galicia, are most interested to participate and contribute to the program.

Spain has a remarkable shipbuilding capacity. CNE, CONSTRUNAVES, the Spanish Association of Private Shipbuilders has 17 shipyards in their organization, 12 located in Galicia. PYMAR, the Spanish Association of Medium-Sized Shipyards are invited and will inform their member shipyards about the IIW-Ship meeting in Vigo.

The Aimen Technology Centre has accepted to be our host. This Institute is the technical centre for R&D, education and information for the manufacturing industry, including the shipbuilding industry, in the North-West of Spain. They have already started to look for economical support for our international performance in Vigo. The GALICIAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM for Shipbuilding Industry (PTGN), which is supported by the Galician Shipbuilding Cluster Association (ACLUNAGA), is interested in supporting the meeting. These institutions have a major importance in the Galician sector, and we will certainly consider them in our organization. An other support will come from CESOL, the SPANISH WELDING SOCIETY, in Madrid, offering all the assistance we need for this IIW-Ship meeting.

Besides the Spanish shipbuilding industry, are invitations addressed to the shipyards round the Mediterranean, including Croatia, Turkey, Greece and Egypt. For the first time are the Russian Wadan Yards invited, a Russian /Ukrainian Group, recently owner of the Aker Warnow and AkerWismar shipyards in Germany.

Of course, that our shipbuilding participants from Germany, Netherlands, France, England, Scandinavia and Finland are invited and I count on their participation. It is very well possible that Australia, the ASEAN countries and the USA will send engineers to this meeting in Vigo. Japan, China and South- Korea, are following our shipbuilding meetings, but no participations yet.

The AGENDA for the IIW-Ship meeting in Spain is “staying on the slipway” and I need to consult with the different presenters for Vigo. We are presenting a continuation of innovative shipbuilding with information from the participating shipyards, engineering and supply companies, Universities and R&D Institutes.

Some of the targets for present day and future shipbuilders are clear: Implementation of innovative technologies and rationalization of manufacturing. Some of the international united group of shipyards in Europe is able to develop their particular niche areas of activity and deliver a wide range of technologically advanced ships. The exchange of knowledge and experience among these yards, generating synergy and strengthen their world-wide position. These multiple organized shipyards have the capacity to build or convert ships of practically any type and are able to fulfill the highest specifications and standards for sophisticated vessels around the world.

It has been found that close interaction between shipyards is necessary to maintain and improve competitiveness of their maritime cluster, in a worldwide market. The will to co-operate is essential in the shipbuilding industry in order to maintain continued growth and profitability. Shipyards must co-operate, for example, within the production automation area to achieve the fastest and most efficient results.

We in the IIW-Shipbuilding Committee, see the welder or operator as a key resource in innovative shipbuilding. Our agenda identify risks for the welders , that need to be taken into account in the design of workplaces. In Swedish Official Statistics, welders and flame cutters stand out in terms of heavy exposure on health effects in several respects. The protection of the welders and operators is a part of the agenda. This work is done in co-operation with IIW Commission VIII; HEALTH and SAFETY.

For the first time do we consider a "lady program", with visits to the unique places like Santiago de Compostela Cathedral and others. Ladies are welcome in Vigo.

I hope to see you on the 15th IIW SELECT COMMITTEE on SHIPBUILDING in VIGO, SPAIN on December 1st and 2nd, 2009. The official program and agenda will be sent later to you.

My best regards,

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Chairman of the IIW Select Committee on Shipbuilding

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