

What does the future hold for cruise ships and shipbuilders?

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With cruise ship orders increasing and the current orderbook value standing at US \$47.6billion*, the cruise shipbuilding sector still continues to be dominated by three main shipbuilders which are all in Europe: Fincantieri, Meyer Werft and STX France. Fincantieri (including Vard) is building 29 of the 75 due for delivery by 2025), Meyer Werft is contracted for 17, STX France for 12, and the new grouping owned by Genting Hong Kong - MV Werften - for six.

The result is that the current orderbook already represents another 250,000 berths being added to the global cruise fleet in the 10 years to 2025, increasing capacity by 40%. Some analysts are predicting that, with further orders inevitably to be placed for deliveries within the second half of that 10-year span, fleet capacity will probably grow at least 50% and push the global passenger total up from 24m last year to 30m by 2022, towards 35m by 2026 and then 40m by 2030.

In addition to the ever increasing number of cruise ships on order, the cruise lines are also investing heavily in refurbishment of their existing ships, with US \$1.5billion spent on cruise ship refurbishment in 2016 alone.

Cruise industry analyst Tony Peisley says: "One innovation stands head and shoulders above all others when it comes to explaining the improved profitability of the cruise sector and its relentless drive for growth and that is the creation of the 'mega-ship'. We can expect to see plenty more – and probably even larger - cruise ships in the future."

Peisley also commented on the shipbuilding sector in Germany in particular: "Genting Hong Kong's purchase of four German yards was driven by its need to find capacity for the ambitious expansion plans it has for its own three brands – Crystal Cruises, Star Cruises and Dream Cruises – but it will also eventually offer a welcome new option for other companies frustrated by the full or fast-filling orderbooks of the other European shipbuilders."

Kyriakos Anastassiadis, Chairman, CLIA Europe and CEO, Celestyal Cruises added: "The European shipbuilding industry remains the global leader in the construction of complex liners and vessels, such as cruise ships, mega-yachts, and others. It is important that European shipyards – and their unique expertise – continue to grow alongside our fast developing cruise sector, for the prosperity of the cruise industry and its communities."

And what about new technologies? In total, 11 of the 75 ships on order will use LNG fuel at sea as well as in port: two for Royal Caribbean International, two for MSC Cruises, and seven for Carnival brands.

Gianni Onorato, Chief Executive Officer, MSC Cruises, said: “Today’s order book reflects our industry’s expectation for long-term sustainable growth, with additional capacity coming in to match stronger demand for cruise holidays. Never before have cruise lines committed to new ship orders spanning over such a long period of time. With up to ten additional new cruise ships to join out fleet by 2026, MSC Cruises looks to contribute to the overall growth of the appeal of this industry and the product that it offers. And, with four of these vessels to be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG), we are also proud of being part of the collective effort to reduce the cruise industry’s environmental footprint even more.”

The future of cruise ships, the orderbook and new technology will be amongst some of the topics discussed in the opening session at **Seatrade Europe**, taking place which is being held at Hamburg Messe und Congress in Hamburg, Germany. This session, entitled ‘**The Future of the Cruise Industry in Europe**’ will take place on Wednesday 6 September from 1030-1200 hrs. **Kyriakos Anastassiadis**, Chairman, CLIA Europe and CEO, Celestyal Cruises will lead the discussions. He will then be joined on stage by **David Dingle**, Chairman, Carnival UK; **Felix Eichhorn**, President, AIDA Cruises; **Capt Michael McCarthy**, Chairman, Cruise Europe and Commercial Manager, Port of Cork; **Wybcke Meier**, Chief Executive Officer, TUI Cruises GmbH; **Gianni Onorato**, Chief Executive Officer, MSC Cruises; **Neil Palomba**, President, Costa Crociere; **Karl J. Pojer**, Chief Executive Officer, Hapag-Lloyd Cruises and Chairman, CLIA Germany; and **Richard J. Vogel**, President & CEO, Grupo Pullmantur

To download the Seatrade Cruise News cruise ship orderbook, please [click here](#).

To find out more about the full programme, and for regular updates, please visit www.seatrade-europe.com/programme/conference

*Source: Seatrade Cruise News cruise ship orderbook as of 27 June 2017.

About Seatrade Europe

Seatrade Europe, the leading trade event of the European cruise and river cruise industry, organised by Hamburg Messe und Congress GmbH, in partnership with Seatrade (UBM EMEA), is held in Hamburg, Germany’s famous seaport on the Elbe River. Industry decision-makers and professionals will meet to exchange ideas, set new trends and expand their business networks. Exhibitors include shipyards, ship chandlers, food and beverage suppliers, classification societies, cruise ports and shipbrokers, among others. From small-scale on-board hospitals to huge restaurant kitchens, from waste disposal to entertainment equipment, operations on board a cruise ship are highly complex, requiring perfect logistics. At the conference held in parallel with the exhibition, high-level experts will discuss current industry topics. Seatrade Europe will open doors from Wednesday 6 to Friday 8 September 2017.

For full details about Seatrade Europe, visit www.seatrade-europe.com

Find out more about Seatrade and UBM, visit [Seatrade](#) and [UBM EMEA](#)

Cruise Week in September 2017

From 1 to 10 September 2017, the port of Hamburg will again be transformed into a giant stage for major cruise events. For the second time, Hamburg will be bundling its cruise events and welcoming both the public and industry experts for ten days. The highlights are: Seatrade Europe (6-8 September) – Europe's meeting point for the cruise industry, the Hamburg Cruise Days (8-10 September) – Europe's largest public cruise event as well as two events organised by CLIA (5–6 September), the world's largest cruise association. Throughout the events, the port will again be illuminated and transformed into Blue Port Hamburg by lighting artist Michael Batz (1-10 September).

More information at www.hamburgcruisedays.com/cruiseweek

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