

Scandlines ferries with hybrid drives from Siemens

In 2013 Siemens installed a hybrid drive system on the first ferry, the Princess Benedikte operated by the Scandlines shipping company on the “Vogelflugline” (Bird Flight Line) between Puttgarden, Germany, and Rödby, Denmark.

This makes the 142-meter ferry the world’s largest hybrid ferry.

The shipping company plans to install the drive in additional ferries. The new hybrid system stores excess electrical energy in batteries, which allows one of the five previously required diesel-driven generators on the ferry to be eliminated. The remaining generators can be driven much more efficiently with the battery system.

- The diesel-electric drive for the ferries consists of four 3.5 MWh, diesel-driven generator sets as well as the four electric propelling motors, each with a shaft output of 3.2 MWh. The 2.6-MWh battery system retrofitted by Siemens supplements the generator power.
- A 2.6-MWh battery system, Siemens charging and discharging technology as well as the necessary control electronics were added for the hybrid drive. The energy storage system acts as a buffer storage unit for the unneeded electrical power of the generator sets. The stored energy can be drawn upon as needed for the on-board electrical system or the propelling motors.
- This technical trick not only allows the shipping company to eliminate one of the additional on-board generator sets that was previously required but also reduces the ferry's fuel consumption by 15 to 20 percent during regular service.

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