

Contra-Rotating Propellers – Combination of DP Capability, Fuel Economy and Environment

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Abstract

When selecting propulsion equipment for DP-applications the focus has traditionally been on the high bollard thrust and poor free running efficiency has been neglected. As fuel prices have sky-rocketed and environmental issues have become more and more important, the overall economy and environment friendliness of the propulsion systems needs to be re-examined.

Many offshore vessels, such as supply vessels and ROV support vessels, operate typically only a part of time in DP with fairly low power levels. The overall fuel economy is a combination of high free running efficiency and high specific bollard thrust.

Contra-Rotating Propellers – or CRPs – are commonly accepted as the propulsion device giving the highest efficiency in several fields of marine industry. Their unsurpassed efficiency has made them very attractive also for several types of DP-capable offshore vessels in Europe.

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