

AKER ARCTIC PARTICIPATES IN RUSSIA'S PROGRAM FOR NEW NUCLEAR ICEBREAKERS

Record ice conditions created in the new AARC Technology Center

The Ministry of Transport of Russian Federation has launched a development program with the target to build a new generation of nuclear icebreakers for the Arctic waters, to replace the aging vessels built in the early 1980's.

Aker Arctic Technology Inc. (AARC) has completed comparative ice model tests with two alternative designs for the new icebreaker project for the principal designer of the vessel JSC Aisberg of St. Petersburg. The initial tests with the alternatives were conducted at the ice basin of Krylov Shipbuilding Research Institute (KSRI) and JSC Aisberg requested AARC to conduct an independent assessment of their ice performance.

The tests were witnessed by representatives of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, JSC Aisberg, Krylov Shipbuilding Research Institute (KSRI) and Central Marine Research & Design Institute (CNIIMF).

The new generation icebreaker is set to break 2.85 m thick level ice with the power of 60MW. The test conditions were challenging. The scale of the Russian built models resulted in extreme ice thickness in the basin. However, it was noted that the model ice thickness 84mm was reached with no difficulty even with summer temperatures outside. It was also noted that ice thicknesses well over 100 mm are reachable.

AARC is currently operating its third ice model testing facility in Vuosaari, Helsinki. The new facility opened for business in March 2006 and the basin has been well occupied by work for shipping and oil/gas industry world wide. Last year 80 ice model tests were conducted and this year the number will be exceeded. Later this fall Aker Arctic will take on again new testing challenges as model tests in multiyear ice conditions will be simulated.

The co-operation with the Russian organisations and institutes is a sign of the continuation of the long-term business relationship between the Russian Federation and Finland and shows deep trust between the parties.

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