

## Aker Arctic to design Multipurpose State Icebreaker for Estonian Maritime Administration

The Estonian Maritime Administration has awarded a contract to Aker Arctic Technology Inc, Helsinki, Finland, for designing a new multipurpose icebreaker. The value of the agreement is close to 6 million EUR, including the development of the conceptual design, the basic design, preparation of the tender documents needed for a public procurement for building the ship, and construction supervision.

The technical solution proposed by Aker Arctic represents the latest development in modern icebreaker technology. The new generation multipurpose icebreaker for Estonia with a total length of 108 metres and a breadth of 28 metres will be able to break 1.2 m thick level ice forward and astern at a continuous speed of 3 knots, as well as move smoothly through heavy ice ridges due to her novel stern design. The vessel's twin azimuthing drives will have a total shaft power of 17 MW. The vessel will be fitted with the equipment needed for oil combating, fire fighting and towing and, in order to perform multiple service tasks in ice-free periods, offshore equipment will also be installed.

The public procurement for building the vessel will be announced in May 2008, and the final costs as well as the deadline for completing the construction works will be known in autumn 2008, after receiving bids from invited shipyards. It is expected that the new multipurpose vessel would enter service in the 2010/2011 icebreaking season.

- "This is another proof of the results of our intensive product development for modern icebreakers" says Mikko Niini, Managing Director of Aker Arctic. "This week we are evidencing the delivery of world's first Arctic Double Acting shuttle tanker with twin 10 MW pod drives from Samsung Heavy Industries in Korea under our licence to Russian owners for LUKoil/ConocoPhillips oil exports from Timan Pechora and this new award will bring a follow-up for the good performance already shown in the Baltic Sea by the Neste Shipping tankers "Tempera" and "Mastera" which have an excellent five year service record and are based on the same conceptual solution."

According to the words of Mr Andrus Maide, Director General of the Maritime Administration, this is the first big step towards implementing the national icebreaking development plan for Estonia.

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*EMA ([www.vta.ee](http://www.vta.ee)) is a governmental organisation under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications to ensure safe navigation in Estonian territorial and inland waters, perform Flag State Implementation and Port State Control activities The Administration also monitors vessel traffic in Estonian waters through the radar and AIS network and arranges icebreaker service in ice conditions. The fleet of the Administration consists of an ice breaker, buoy tender ships and hydrographic survey ships.*

**Aker Yards ASA** ([www.akeryards.com](http://www.akeryards.com)) is an international shipbuilding group focusing on sophisticated vessels. The group has a strong position both in terms of innovation, product range, technology, experience and capacity. The product range includes cruise vessels & ferries, merchant vessels and offshore & specialized vessels. Aker Yards comprises 18 yards in Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Romania, Ukraine and Vietnam. Aker Yards has approximately 21,000 employees. Aker Yards has a 62,5 per cent shareholding in Aker Arctic.

**Aker Arctic** ([www.akerarctic.fi](http://www.akerarctic.fi)) is an independent company specializing in the development of new, innovative solutions for arctic operations. In March 2006, Aker Arctic moved into its new laboratory and R&D facility in Helsinki, Finland, which has a state-of-the art ice model test basin. The company also provides arctic engineering services to the shipping and offshore industries. Two series of double-acting arctic shuttle tankers are currently under construction using Aker Arctic's double-acting technology.

