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## **I-Tech has been granted support from the Swedish Energy Agency**

**I-Tech AB has been granted financial support in the form of a grant with a limited royalty of MSEK 5.423 for the national and global launch and commercialization of Selektope®. Selektope prevents fouling of shell-building organisms to ships regardless of type and use, thereby contributing to significant fuel savings for the industry without disturbing the marine life.**

“This support by the Swedish Energy Agency enables us to validate and demonstrate our product. They are crucial steps in launching and commercializing Selektope on both the domestic and global markets,” says Philip Chaabane, CEO of I-Tech.

Selektope is an antifouling agent that prevents the settlement of shell-building marine organisms, specifically barnacles. The uniqueness of Selektope lies in its ability to affect the behaviour in the barnacle larvae instead of killing it. The introduction of the product could bring a shift in technique for the marine industry. A ship with barnacle settlement on the hull has a substantially increased consumption of fuel than ships with a clean hull.

“I-Tech’s product Selektope does not have a toxic effect in water organisms and can accordingly, in addition to reduced fuel consumption, contribute to the solution of a substantial environmental issue, says Binella Vannesjö, business developer at the Swedish Energy Agency.

### **Substantial fuel savings potential within the Deep Sea segment**

The shipping trade is increasing steadily, but harbour infrastructure has not been able to develop at the same rate. This has led to long periods of idling at the time of loading and unloading, causing heavy settlement of barnacles and as a result an increase in vessels’ fuel consumption. The greatest potential to achieve fuel consumption savings by reducing settlement can be found within the Deep Sea segment. By validating their customers’ technology maturity, and by demonstrating the product, I-Tech aims to reach the high volume Deep Sea market.

Deep Sea includes vessels travelling long distances across oceans, unlike vessels travelling relatively close to seaboards. Deep Sea is characterised by long docking intervals and

unpredictable movement patterns in the vessels, as well as high exposure to tropical waters with a high risk of considerable marine fouling.

## **About I-Tech**

I-Tech is a Swedish research-based engineering company holding the patent for both the use of Selektope as well as the techniques for controlling the release of the substance in the waters. The uniqueness of Selektope is that the product combats barnacle settlement by temporarily stimulating the octopamine receptor in the barnacle larvae, repelling them from the hull instead of killing it.

The company was formed in 2000 and has its base in research projects at Chalmers University of Technology and the University of Gothenburg. Extensive research on behaviour-altering substances for marine organisms resulted in the findings around Selektope and lay ground for the development of I-Tech.

The company has, for more than fifteen years, shown that the product has the potential to solve high-energy use – one of shipping industry's biggest problems. In 2015 the company received government approval for Selektope in the key markets Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

## **Contact**

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