

Selektope® enters antifouling mainstream via Chugoku SEAFLO NEO range

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The first branded marine coatings to feature the breakthrough antifouling ingredient Selektope® have been launched by coatings major Chugoku Marine Paints, Ltd. (CMP).

Developed by I-TECH AB, Selektope's pharmacological action is unique in the marine antifouling application. It repels barnacle settlement on ships' hulls by temporarily stimulating the barnacle larvae's swimming behaviour.

CMP's new generation 'SEAFLO NEO' range of antifouling make the Selektope solution available as a high performance product for mainstream operations, under two separate brands: SEAFLO NEO CF PREMIUM; and SEAFLO NEO-S PREMIUM.

SEAFLO NEO CF PREMIUM is based on zinc polymer technology and is a coating with an in-service life exceeding five years, ideal for oceangoing vessels operating worldwide. It has already been applied in full coats to vessels owned by shipping companies based in Sweden, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan.

SEAFLO NEO-S PREMIUM, is based on silyl polymer technology, and specifically targets 'low activity' vessels. It has kept hulls 'free from barnacles', even when ships have been static during outfitting in the harsh fouling conditions in South Korean shipyards, according to CMP.

"These new SEAFLO NEO antifouling will meet the demands of today's shipping market," says Masaya Hata, CMP General Sales Manager. "SEAFLO NEO CF PREMIUM is particularly effective for owners seeking optimized vessel efficiency in high fouling areas, while SEAFLO NEO-S PREMIUM comes into its own when ships spend more of their time at rest."

High levels of biofouling on a ship's hull increase drag, reduce vessel performance and increase fuel consumption significantly. Selektope is "proving to be spectacularly effective in the prevention of barnacle attachment and is confirming itself capable of unsurpassed antifouling performance, even when a ship is at anchorage for months," CMP says.

The SEAFLO NEO range has been developed over a decade of trials and performance data gathering by CMP. Due to the low concentration needed, Selektope does not compromise the chemical structure, colour or other cooperative biocides of a marine coating.

Philip Chaabane, Chief Executive I-TECH, comments: "After a 16-year journey for Selektope through research, testing, approvals and industrialisation, we are honored to be part of CMP's new premium antifouling range. Selektope is already excelling in mainstream shipping operations, as well as the tougher conditions arising from more aggressive fouling."

Fully approved under the EU's Biocidal Products Regulation, I-Tech reports orders for coatings including Selektope in the first part of 2016 as double those achieved for the whole of 2015.

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FOR EDITORS

About Selektope®

Selektope® introduces a unique, bio-repellent mode of action to combat barnacle settlement. By temporarily stimulating the octopamine receptor, the barnacle larvae's swimming behavior is activated and the organisms are deterred from the hull. These ground-breaking discoveries enable unrivalled power at very low concentrations, yet within the limits of rigorous risk assessments. Selektope® is an organic, non-metal compound with efficacy proven at 0.1% w/w.

About I-Tech AB



I-Tech is a Gothenburg based bio-tech company with global reach, holding all IP and regulatory rights to the antifouling agent Selektope® (generic name, medetomidine). The company is privately held and is supported by Swedish Energy Association, the European Innovation Initiative Eco-Innovation and FP7 SeaFront. The company is a member of the Astra Zeneca BioVentureHub.