

Press release

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Scandlines wins sustainability award

At an award ceremony in Copenhagen 17 January 2024, Scandlines won the [National Energy Globe Award](#). In a simple but effective sustainability measure, Scandlines optimised the ferries operating the Rostock-Gedser route to their current operating profile, cutting 6 percent of the ferries' total energy consumption and as much as 11 percent of the propulsion energy. The strategic modification ensures a corresponding decrease in CO₂ emissions.

The award recognises projects focussing on the use of renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainability, and Scandlines' initiative with new, smaller propeller blades is a good example of this.

In 2016, Scandlines introduced two new hybrid ferries on the Rostock-Gedser between Germany and Denmark. The ferries are specially designed for the route and for a speed of 20 knots with three engines in operation: two on the centre propeller and one for the hotel load and thrusters.

As part of the company's green agenda, the speed has been reduced to 16 knots and therefore only one engine is needed on the centre propeller. The propulsion machinery of the vessel is not optimised for this speed and one main engine does not have sufficient torque to rotate the propeller at the designed pitch (angle of the propeller blade). In order not to overload the engine, pitch is reduced and propeller efficiency decreases significantly.

The former centre propeller with a diameter of 4.6 metres was thus not being used optimally, and Scandlines therefore decided to replace the five propeller blades with smaller blades, so that the centre propeller now has a diameter of 4.2 metres. In addition to improved efficiency, this also reduces vibration.

"Without the skilled and innovative employees on board and ashore, this project would hardly have seen the light of day, and we are incredibly proud of yet another recognition for their efforts for the green transition," says Scandlines COO Michael Guldmann Petersen.

With a crossing time of two hours, the new propeller blades cut 6 percent of the ferries' total energy consumption and 11 percent of the propulsion energy. The strategic modification ensures a corresponding decrease in CO₂ emissions.

Since 2013, Scandlines has invested EUR 400 million in green technology. In 2024, the ferry operator will deploy the first zero direct emission ferry with the world's to date largest battery bank on the Puttgarden-Rødby route. Only six years later, in 2030, the ambition is to operate the entire route without direct emissions. With the objective of making the entire company emission-free by 2040, Scandlines is setting itself higher targets than the COP28 agreement, which aims for transition away from fossil fuels and zero emissions by 2050.

In its motivation for awarding the price to Scandlines, the jury states, among other things: "The project not only achieved notable energy and emission reductions but also reduced vibrations and the risk of damage, showcasing Scandlines' commitment to eco-friendly maritime transportation."

The award is presented annually in over 180 countries by the non-profit ENERGY GLOBE Foundation. The goal is to highlight solutions to environmental problems.

New centre propeller blades for the Scandlines Rostock-Gedser-Rostock hybrid ferries:

Before: Centre propeller with a diameter of 4.6 metres

Now: Centre propeller with a diameter of 4.2 metres

Number: The centre propeller has a total of five blades

Weight: Each blade weighs 1,223 kg

Propulsion energy saving: 11 percent

CO₂ reduction: 11 percent

About Scandlines

Scandlines is a modern and innovative ferry operator with a green vision for the future. We have a proud culture based on strong German-Danish cooperation and maritime history dating back to 1872.

Scandlines operates two ferry routes with high capacity and frequency. Six of our ferries are hybrid ferries, and two are furthermore fitted with an innovative rotor sail – and that contributes to making our ferries greener.

Our core business is to provide an efficient and reliable transport service for both passengers and freight customers. The focus for all our activities – on board the ferries as well as in our BorderShops – is to give our customers a great experience.

With 39,000 departures on seven ferries, Scandlines in 2022 transported close to 6.1 million passengers, 1.6 million cars and over 750,000 freight units on the routes Puttgarden-Rødby and Rostock-Gedser.

Read more about Scandlines at www.scandlines.com. High-resolution press photos can be downloaded [here](#).

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