



Star Bulk to install PureBallast 3 bulker-fit configurations

Star Bulk, shipping company

Star Bulk is a Nasdaq-listed ("SBLK") global shipping company that provides high-quality transportation services for dry bulk cargoes. One of the top-performing shipping companies in the RightShip risk rating globally, it has a fleet of 128 modern vessels on a fully delivered basis with a total capacity of more than 14 million DWT. The vessels are built at world-class shipyards and transport major bulks like iron ore, minerals and grain, as well as minor bulks such as bauxite, fertilizers and steel products.



STAR BULK



“Alfa Laval is proud to have the confidence of a global bulk expert like Star Bulk. This new agreement is a milestone for the PureBallast 3 bulker-fit configuration.”

Peter Sahlén, Head of Alfa Laval PureBallast, comments

Six of Star Bulk's bulkers have already been retrofitted with Alfa Laval PureBallast 3 systems for ballast water treatment. Pursuant to a new agreement entered into with Alfa Laval, PureBallast 3 systems with bulker-fit configurations will now be retrofitted on 37 other Star Bulk vessels.

Star Bulk's existing PureBallast 3 installations are a mix of PureBallast 3 Standard systems treating 2000 m³/hr and PureBallast 3 Compact Flex systems treating 1000 m³/hr. These have demonstrated ease of use and compliance in challenging waters while maintaining low operating costs. For its new systems, however, Star Bulk was looking for even greater cost efficiency, which led to the choice of bulker-fit configurations.

“Following extensive research, we opted for the new PureBallast 3 systems to be installed with bulker-fit configurations on 37 of our Supramax, Ultramax, Panamax, Kamsarmax and Post Panamax bulk carriers,” says Mr Nicos Rescos, Chief Operating Officer at Star Bulk Carriers. “This is the appropriate solution in meeting the demanding trading requirements on these vessels. Cargo loading rates at the terminals where our vessels call worldwide continue to increase and are significantly higher than the cargo discharging rates, requiring different deballasting and ballasting rates for optimization each time.”

The bulker-fit configuration takes advantage of a bulker's differentiated ballast water flows, where the ballasting flow is only half of the deballasting flow. By independently dimensioning the filter and reactor capacities, it achieves reduced CAPEX, OPEX and environmental footprint while retaining full ballast water treatment flexibility.

The advantages were further highlighted in a third-party feasibility study, in which the engineering company appointed by Star Bulk found that PureBallast 3 bulker-fit configurations would significantly lower installation costs and OPEX compared to standard PureBallast 3 systems. U.S. Coast Guard type approval for the solution, which was received in summer 2020, also enhanced its feasibility when considering Star Bulk's fleet trade routes.

In addition, Alfa Laval's service capabilities factored into the decision. “Aftersales service support continues to be vital for Star Bulk in managing any retrofit operation,” says Rescos. “Given Alfa Laval's global service network and lifecycle support, we decided that this was the best way forward for retrofitting ballast water treatment systems on these vessels.”

Peter Sahlén, Head of Alfa Laval PureBallast, comments, “Alfa Laval is proud to have the confidence of a global bulk expert like Star Bulk. This new agreement is a milestone for the PureBallast 3 bulker-fit configuration.”

How to contact Alfa Laval

Up-to-date Alfa Laval contact details for all countries are always available on our website at www.alfalaval.com

100003424-1-EN 2103