



Press Release

Marine Engineering – now “Made in Bangladesh”

Since mid 2007, the Danish shipping company and investor – Stella Shipping P/S – has been in co-operation with the well-known Bangladeshi shipyard – Western Marine Shipyard Ltd. in Chittagong. The partnership has revolved around Stella Shipping's need for adding to its fleet of mid-sized ocean going vessels and Western Marine's wish to expand its operation. The co-operation has resulted in Stella Shipping placing orders for five 4,100 DWT Ice Class ships with Western Marine – a ground breaking deal for the Bangladeshi shipyard, thereby entering into the league of international players in the ship building industry.

As a spin-off from this ship building order the partners have now decided to further develop their co-operation by setting up a joint unit for marine engineering and ship design, based on advanced engineering solutions. Bringing in comprehensive 3D engineering skills, Stella Shipping and Western Marine have made an alliance with another Danish company – PlantWare A/S – specialising in sophisticated computer aided engineering design systems related to steel work, piping systems and electrical cabling, among others.

“Complementing the investments we have undertaken in Western Marine in recent years for upgrading our shipyard, we believe this marine engineering division will add substantial value to our operation and make us even more attractive towards the international market”, states Md. Saiful Islam, Chairman of Western Marine.

“We have been very pleased with our co-operation with Western Marine and now combining Danish know how in ship design, we are confident that this marine engineering unit can become an independent and profitable business, seeking clients in Bangladesh as well as abroad”, supplements Mr. Jan Fabricius, Chairman of Stella Shipping.

The co-operation has been supported by the Royal Danish Embassy's Business-to-Business (B2B) Programme under the umbrella of DANIDA, assisting in the knowledge transfer to the Bangladeshi marine engineers. Says Mr. Christian Pallesen, Managing Director of PlantWare, “We are very happy for the B2B support which has secured access to our know how base in Denmark and has made it possible for us now to start up training of 6 Western Marine engineers in Marstal, Denmark.”

The 3 partners – Western Marine, Stella Shipping and PlantWare – formalised their co-operation through a signing ceremony at the Royal Danish Embassy in Dhaka held on the 15th May 2008.



Caption: From left to right: The Danish Ambassador H.E. Ambassador Einar Hebogaard Jensen; Mr. Niels Vestergaard, Managing Director of Stella Shipping P/S; Mr. Sakhawat Hossain, Managing Director of Western Marine Shipyard Limited and Mr. Christian Pallesen, Managing Director of PlantWare A/S signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Other representatives from these organizations were also present.

For more information, please contact:

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Embassy of Denmark***