

Maersk installs Micro Motion

US-based company Emerson says that its Micro Motion® Certified Marine Bunker Measurement Solution for measuring heavy fuel oil (HFO) bunker deliveries is now being installed on Maersk vessels. The Maersk Bulan became the world's first cargo vessel equipped with a Micro Motion® Certified Marine Bunker Measurement Solution in December last year.

According to the St Louis, Missouri-headquartered company the measurement solution meets international standards for custody transfer and enables accurate, transparent and traceable HFO measurements that are accepted by fuel suppliers to Maersk. It provides real-time HFO bunker measurements that increase operational efficiency, minimise disputes and provide automated electronic Bunker Delivery Tickets.

"Emerson's Micro Motion® Certified Bunker Solution allows us to remove uncertainty and improve transparency on custody transfer of fuel oil, which is our largest cost item, while at the same time increasing our operational efficiency," said Jesper Rosenkrans, Business Development Manager for Maersk Oil Trading.

Micro Motion Coriolis meters for bunker measurement were first implemented by AP Moller Maersk on a number of vessels in 2008. Emerson says that, while the initial results were good, Maersk and the industry as a whole needed a transparent and traceable bunker measurement system based around the Micro Motion Coriolis meter to provide the necessary confidence and drive a true global industry change.

Emerson carried out further work, with agreement from Maersk and its partners, to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges of bunkering fluid dynamics. This included addressing the issues to realise a direct mass-based, independently accredited, bunkering custody transfer solution for two-phase HFO.

The Certified Marine Bunker Measurement Solution includes a Micro Motion ELITE Coriolis meter, Series 3000 transmitter with Marine Bunker Transfer Package, and bunker delivery ticket printer. The system is capable of handling the density and viscosity inconsistencies inherent in HFO and was certified by

Nederlands Meetinstituut (NMI), the notified body for testing to the guidelines of the European Union Measurements Instruments Directive (MID) and Issuing Authority for International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML). The solution meets the OIML standard R117-1 and the MID standard 2004/22/EC Annex MI-005.

The same system has also been installed on one Dutch barge operator VT Group's vessels, the Vlaardingen.

Emerson says that the implementation of the Certified Bunker Measurement Solution in December 2010 on MTS Vlaardingen is a natural extension of VT's in-house developed software system, which is based on tank radar measurement, corrected for trim and list. The VT radar system eliminates manual processes and already gives industry-leading, high accuracy results. Emerson's Micro Motion Coriolis mass flowmeter technology, it says, brings an extra level of certified accuracy, ensuring that the deliveries made and paid for by the end user are proven.

"Certified Coriolis flowmeters support the existing VT business model of accurate quantity measurements," said Yuri Ouweneel of VT Group. "These flowmeters allow us to differentiate ourselves as a top-tier bunker service company, further improving our reputation while illustrating this value clearly to our customers."

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Maersk is installing the Emerson system on its vessels