

When will we ever learn? – List of known passenger vessel “accidents” for DECEMBER 2013

Day	Month	Year	Region	Location	Nature of accident	Cause	Vessel Name	No. of deaths
10	12	2013	Asia	Batam	Collision	Unknown	Batam Jet 2 and Miko Natalia	0
14	12	2013	Europe	Baltic Sea	Hit Rocks	Equipment failure	M/S Amorella	0
17	12	2013	North America	Battery Island	Grounding	unknown	Adventure	0
24	12	2013	North America	Gulf of St Lawrence	Stranding	Equipment failure	Apollo	0

Monthly total of deaths: 0+ // Accumulated deaths 2013 year to date: 414+

Death toll per year from 2001 to present

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	13-YEAR TOTAL
Number of deaths	1,191+	2,021+	1,278+	683+	1,255+	2,413+	915+	1,996+	1,786+	824+	802+	1,173+	414+	16,903+

When will we ever learn? Work Boat World will continue to publish this saga of death and destruction until we see a marked downturn in the frequency of such “accidents”. For more details, check www.bairdmaritime.com

FINNISH GOVERNMENT ACQUIRES AKER ARCTIC

State-owned investment company Finnish Industry Investment has acquired a majority holding (66.4 per cent of shares) in Aker Arctic Technology.



Formerly a part of ailing shipbuilder STX Finland, the company's other owners, with holdings of equal size, are Finnish ABB and Norwegian company Aker Engineering and Technology. The sale price for the shares was reportedly EUR9.3 million (US\$12.6 million).

Finland's Minister of Economic Affairs, Jan Vapaavuori, commented on the sale: “Arctic shipping is expected to increase considerably in the coming years and decades. Aker Arctic is well placed to acquire a significant market share in the field and thus have a positive impact on the company's long-term value. For this reason I see the deal as being a success from the state's point of view.”

According to Finnish Industry Investment, the Finnish government approved the acquisition to ensure the Aker's niche marine knowledge base remained in the country.

“The state has a special interest in making sure that Aker Arctic, which represents important marine expertise within the Arctic region, should have an ownership base which retains its intellectual property and is open to future development, Minister Vapaavuori continued.

“Further, in addition to the various potential commercial applications, the company's skills can also be utilised to assist the Finnish Defence Forces.”

A significant fixture within Finland's marine industry, Aker Arctic has created several successful vessel concepts for Arctic navigation, including the world's first so-called “oblique icebreaker” concept currently being built in Helsinki by Arctech. The company is also involved in the planning of new polar icebreakers for Canada and China and has reported “promising prospects” in other areas such as the opening of the Northeast Passage.

TEKNICRAFT AND ALL AMERICAN MARINE TO DELIVER SEATTLE FERRIES

New Zealand naval architect Teknicraft Design has announced that it has been commissioned for the design of two 280-passenger aluminium catamarans for the King County Ferry District.

The sister vessels will operate in the Puget Sound and will serve on water taxi routes from Vashon Island and West Seattle to downtown Seattle.

The construction of the vessels will take place at All American Marine's shipyard in Bellingham in the state of Washington. The vessels will be constructed in accordance to United States Coast Guard subchapter-K regulations.

The 32-metre vessel will feature the Teknicraft Design's signature hull shape, with a symmetrical bow,

asymmetrical tunnel, and integrated wave piercer. Twin Cummins engines will power each vessel, and the fully laden service speed will be 28 knots.

King County will utilise the new ferries to replace its pair of 172-passenger vessels that are currently leased as part of the water taxi fleet.

The new design features seating for 282 passengers, of which 250 are interior seats. The main deck is wheelchair-accessible and the passenger areas include designated seating space for families and passengers with disabilities.

Storage areas are provided for strollers and luggage and the rear deck features a staggered height bicycle storage rack with accommodation for 26 bicycles.

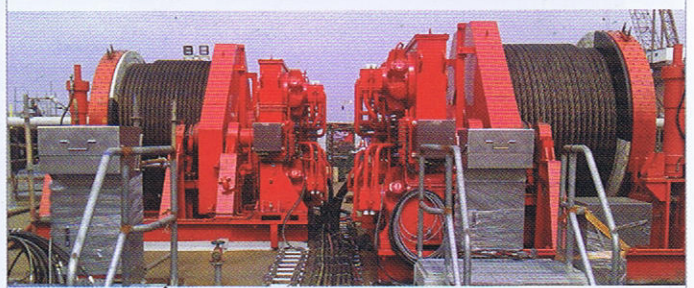


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