

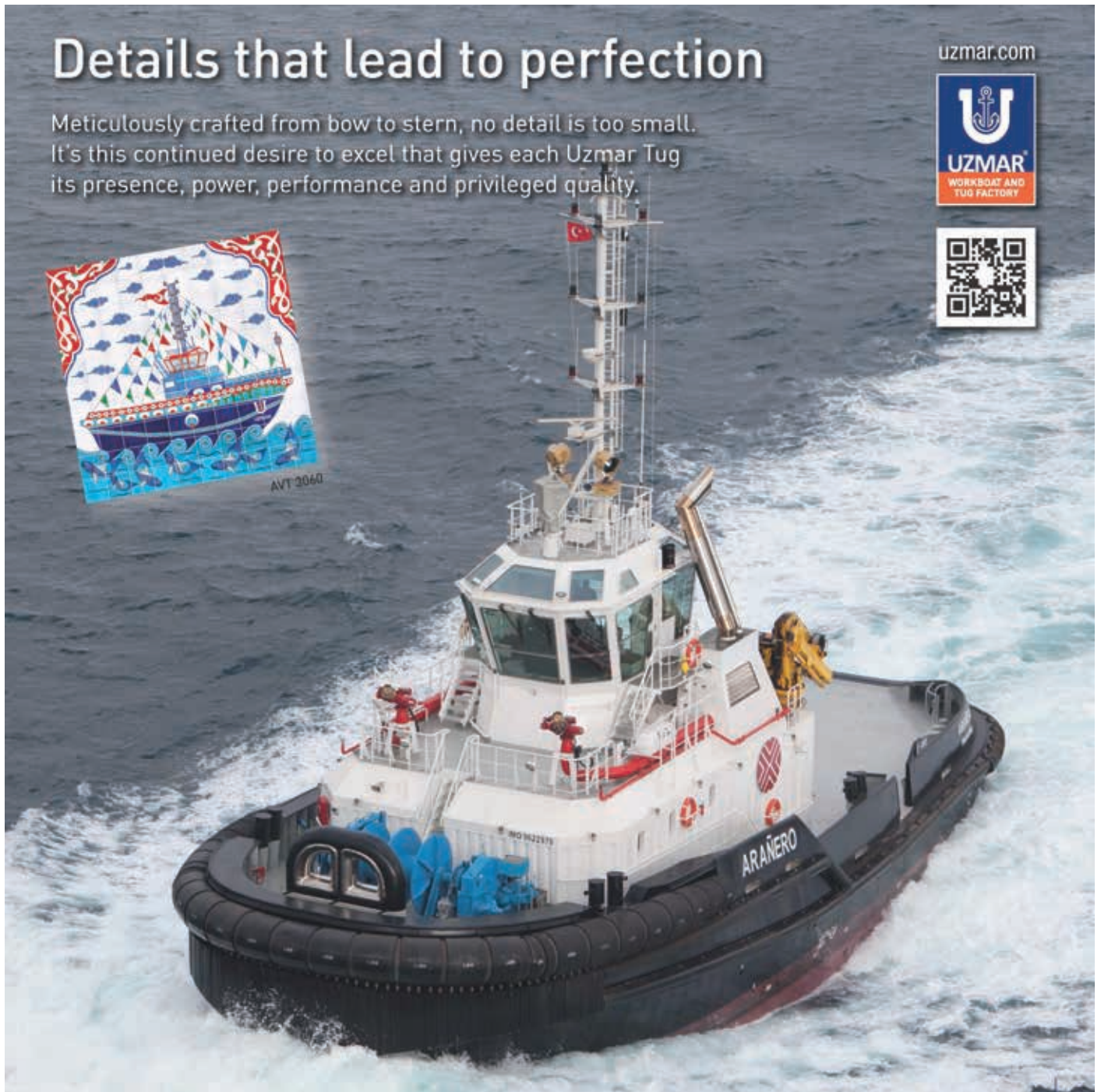


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Machinery control and monitoring

Handheld bearings inspection from Coltraco

Coltraco Ultrasonics has launched a new pocket-sized ultrasonic monitoring solution, developed to assist in testing the status of onboard bearings and rotating machinery. The Portamonitor Portable Ultrasonic Bearing Indicator (or Portamonitor) features a magnetic sensor head; when attached to the outer casing of the machinery in question (such as a motor, pump, fan or gearbox, for example), the device captures a series of readings. It then displays data, related to overall noise levels (in dBs) and the distress level, for further analysis.

George Hunter, director of sales at Coltraco, tells *Ship & Boat International*: “Distress is designed to offer an instant indication on the current quality of a bearing, on a simple 0-40 scale. Very simply: the higher the reading, the worse the bearing condition.

“Every bearing emits a very different signature, depending on the bearing design, operational rpms, size, load and a variety of other variants. Distress is calculated by analysing the incoming ultrasonic signal and applying a numerical value compared to how far that signature is deviating from an expected trend.

“As such, the distress reading cannot be proven as accurate as charting long-term decibel readings, but, as an instant indicator, it delivers an excellent indication for the quality of the bearing and the likelihood of any major issues.”

The Portamonitor can be charged using a standard USB lead, and, according to the manufacturer, has a battery life of approximately 12 hours, granting it the capacity to take 1,000 readings between charges. The unit relies on just two controls, ‘power’ and ‘test functions’, and delivers two simple numeric readings for the results.

Coltraco Ultrasonics’ new Portamonitor has been designed to capture readings in the most “low-cost and easy to operate” manner possible



Hunter adds: “Applying data logging functions and computer compatibility adds a lot of complexity and is a deviation from the focus of the equipment, which is to provide an incredibly simple, low-cost and very easy to operate device. As such, all data recording from the equipment is carried out manually, with the operators filling in results from each bearing – both decibel and distress – as part of normal routine maintenance.”

The product has a width of 98mm, a height of 62mm and a depth of 34mm, and weighs approximately 225g. Other features include an LCD display, the ability to operate in temperatures ranging from 0°C to 65°C and shock- and water-proofing in compliance with IP65.

www.coltraco.co.uk

Company news

RH Marine Group shakes up structure

RH Marine Group has announced that it intends to split its RH Marine and Radio Holland businesses, creating independent entities of each group.

The move, which will be formalised in October this year, will eventually see Radio Holland relocate to a new HQ in Rotterdam. Although both companies will work independently, there will be some collaboration on select projects and in cases where there are “logical links” for technical knowledge-sharing, a spokesperson for Radio Holland tells *Ship & Boat International*.

RH Marine Group was founded last year, from the ashes of Imtech Marine (see *Ship & Boat International* January/February 2016, pages 10-11). At SMM this year, RH Marine announced the launch of its new ‘family brand’, Rhodium, in an attempt to streamline its product offerings under one banner. The Rhodium handle will now apply to all products released in RH Marine’s four product lines, including integrated bridge systems, hybrid energy, ship automation and electrical power.

www.rhmarine.com

www.radioholland.com

Engines

Engine makers unite to boost lifeboat power

Volvo Penta has teamed up with Danish marine diesel engine manufacturer BUKH, forging a deal in which the former will supply the latter with diesel engines rated up to 16litres capacity for installation aboard lifeboats.