Igorova promišljanja (57) – Igor’s Reflections

**Polar cruiser, Brodosplit Yard No. 484**

**Summary**

On Saturday 9 June 2018 in Brodosplit was launched Yard 484, the ship intended for Arctic cruising, built for Netherlands Company Oceanwide Expeditions.

This ship is a symbol of Brodosplit restructuring and a breakthrough in organisational and technical design because it is built with new software, tools and technology, especially in the equipping department, where almost 80-85% of the ship is already equipped during the construction on the berth, resulting in better quality of construction, and shorter deadlines - said Tomislav Debeljak, Chairman of the Board of Brodosplit, before adding that in many ways this ship will be special and recognized as a permanent value for the Split shipyard and Croatian shipbuilding.

Oceanwide Expeditions has been the leading company for commercial exploratory passenger cruises in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions since 1996. “We currently sail with our ice-strengthened 116-passenger vessels *Plancius* and *Ortelius* and we are experiencing an increasing demand for Polar voyages. This ship will give us the opportunity to accommodate these travellers, to grow as a company and to offer new innovative products in the Polar Regions”, says Oceanwide Expeditions’ CEO Michel van Gessel.

The ship will offer her passengers an advanced hotel standard as well as a variety of cabin categories; from spacious suites and superiors to twin and quadruple cabins. “While travelling with this ship, our current passengers will recognize our distinctive Oceanwide product, offering a pleasant informal atmosphere on board. Our main focus remains in-depth nature and wildlife programs and the related activity based shore activities, a product that has been very much appreciated by our current travellers for many years”, explains CEO Michel van Gessel.

This ship will be the very first passenger cruiser built according to the rules of Lloyd’s Register of Shipping classification society, for *Polar Class 6*.

The ship is single screw having four bladed controllable pitch propeller (CPP). Two main medium-speed four stroke engines of 750 rpm are clutch-connected with the reduction gear (twin input-single output), resulting in the propeller shaft speed of 160 rpm. The ship is also provided with bow and stern lateral thrust units (LTU), enabling thus wide selection of manoeuvring including true rotation, true translation and the combined motions.

Situated in the Supavalska uvala (St. Paul’s cove) within the Kaštelski zaljev (Castles’ bay), Brodosplit appears to be the largest Croatian shipyard, with good
microclimatic conditions, as well as the land and sea traffic connections. Furthermore there is, nearby, the large and busy international airport.