Agreement to develop sustainable hybrid cruise ships

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The hybrid boutique cruise concept © Pastrovich Studio

Technology group Wärtsilä Corporation has announced that it has signed a partnership agreement with architect and yacht designer Stefano Pastrovich on the design of sustainable hybrid superyachts for the boutique cruise sector.

Integrated hybrid and solar

According to the company, the design of the hybrid cruise ships will feature a fully-integrated combination of hybrid propulsion and solar panels for minimal environmental impact and high energy efficiency.

In making the announcement, Wärtsilä said that a new generation of boutique cruise ships is set to emerge, combining the luxury of a superyacht, the construction techniques and passenger experience of a cruise ship, as well as a close focus on the environment. It added that cost-optimised vessels "will serve the charter and luxury hotel sectors in attracting and meeting the demand from millennials and cruise veterans alike".

Sustainable concept

According to Wärtsilä, the concept is built around a 60-metre long catamaran with accommodation for up to 36 passengers. It says that the level of sustainability will be such that it will enjoy access to harbours that would otherwise be closed to large motor yachts.

Wärtsilä says that it has extensive hybrid propulsion and energy recovery experience, and that these will be leveraged in the new design for the hybrid cruise ships. It says it has already worked with Pastrovich in other successful projects, including the 99m X-Vintage in 2011 and the 101m X-Expedition in 2017. Its statement added: “Combining the modular construction techniques of the former with the attention to luxury detail that distinguishes the latter, the design takes privacy, safety, voyage experience, and environmental responsibility to new levels.”

It the company announcement, Giammario Meloni, Senior Sales Manager, Wärtsilä Italia, says: “Efficiency and environmental performance are key pillars of Wärtsilä’s Smart Marine approach, which emphasises the need to collaborate with world-class partners. This project encompasses all these ambitions, and we look forward to co-developing with Stefano Pastrovich a totally integrated solution that combines energy efficiency, sustainability and onboard comfort.”