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Wärtsilä and Pastrovich Studio sign agreement to develop a sustainable hybrid vessel

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The minimal environmental impact from Wärtsilä's hybrid propulsion solution will allow access to pristine locations (illustration: Pastrovich Studio)

A new generation of boutique cruise ships is set to emerge, with the luxury of a superyacht, the construction techniques and passenger experience of a cruise ship, and a close focus on the environment. These cost optimised vessels will serve the charter and luxury hotel sectors in attracting and meeting the demand from millennials and cruise veterans alike.

The technology group Wärtsilä has signed a partnership agreement with architect and yacht designer Stefano Pastrovich on the design of innovative sustainable superyachts for the boutique cruise sector.

The design will feature a fully integrated combination of hybrid propulsion and solar panels for minimal environmental impact and high energy efficiency.

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

"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," explains Giammario Meloni, Senior Sales Manager, Wärtsilä Italia.

"Wärtsilä is the ideal partner for this project," comments Stefano Pastrovich, "since we share a vision to be the very best at what we do. Bringing together our architectural and marine technology know-

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how will create a mega-yacht design on the leading edge of innovation. I'm convinced boutique cruise ships of this calibre could spark a turning point in the charter market, attracting a new customer base of millennials and cruise veterans."

Wärtsilä has extensive hybrid propulsion and energy recovery experience which will be leveraged in the new design, and has already worked with Pastrovich in other successful projects. These include the 99-metre *X-Vintage* in 2011 and the 101-metre *X-Expedition* in 2017, an innovative design that bridges the worlds of cruising and superyachts. 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.

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