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A&P TYNE: AFRICA MERCY CONVERSION

A&P Tyne Ltd has completed the conversion of a former Danish rail ferry into the worlds largest non governmental hospital ship. The **Africa Mercy** has been converted at A&P's Tyne facility and is now on passage to West Africa to commence operations (In more than one sense).

The project presented a number of challenges; the original vessel was designed to carry trains on very short coastal voyages in Denmark as a day ferry with limited passenger facilities. The conversion required the **Africa Mercy** to meet the requirements of an international trading passenger vessel capable of carrying a total of 400 persons as well as providing a fully equipped hospital.



Africa Mercy departs A&P Tyne

As the vessel is owned by the charity Mercy Ships (www.mercyships.org) it was also required that wherever possible existing systems were retained and extended this in itself required extremely careful execution particularly with systems such as HVAC and Sewage where major additions and upgrades were required.

In order to meet passenger ship requirements major modifications and additions were required to structural fire protection and detection and extinguishing systems as well as considerable sub division to meet stability criteria.

The new accommodation was specially designed and outfitted to include family suites, schools and facilities to accommodate the largely volunteer crew, some of whom spend years on board the vessel. The finished vessel is more akin to a village than a normal passenger ship.



Restaurant Area



Internet Cafe



Galley



Double Berth Cabin

In order to operate as a hospital the vessel has an extremely large laundry complex in order to meet the high demand for hygienic conditions in a very dynamic environment. The hospital consists of six fully equipped operating theatres requiring a number of different power and gas supplies. In addition to the operating theatres there a number of specialised clinics, scanners and X Ray facilities. There are also four main wards for post operative care as well as a number of high dependency units.



Hospital Area



Laundry Area

The vessels fuel and fresh water capacity had to be increased to allow the vessel to operate internationally.

To meet the power demand of the hospital and number of personnel living on board two of the ships main engines are now solely used as generators.

The vessels life saving appliance were upgraded to include two new 150 man lifeboats as well as increased life raft capacity.

When operational, as well a providing medical support the vessel also provides aid of other kinds, this required the outfit of an after hold to carry 16 TEU's and on deck a crane for loading and discharging aid.

It is hoped that the vessel will have many years service ahead of her and the life extension work carried out to the hull and tanks should ensure this is the case; the hull was completely blasted and recoated.

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