**VODOHOD’S STEP FORWARD: SMALL FLEET RENOVATION**

**Moscow, March 01, 2021 – LLC VODOHOD**

Being the largest operator of river cruises in Russia, Vodohod is constantly working on enhancement of its fleet. Nowadays, Vodohod’s fleet consists of 26 units of comfortable 4-deck fleet of projects 301, 302, 92-016 Q-040, Q-056 and PV300, 9 units of speedboats type “Meteor” and 5 units of pleasure boats type “Moskva”, “Neva”, “Vodohod”.

The Vodohod company announced the beginning of the renovation of its small fleet. Within three years, high-speed and pleasure motor ships involved in regular passenger traffic in the North-West and Volga Federal Districts will be replaced by electric passenger ships. On February 15, 2021, contracts for the production of five high-speed Ecocruiser catamarans with “NPK Morsvyazavtomatica”, St. Petersburg, and one Looker 1100 pleasure boat with the Paritetboat Company, Yaroslavl, were signed. Ecocruiser catamarans will replace the traditional Meteors, which are currently operated by Vodohod in St. Petersburg, and Looker 1100 will become a part of the pleasure fleet in Nizhny Novgorod. Financing of leasing projects for the construction of these vessels will be carried out within the framework of the Leasing Program for sea and river civil vessels by Mashpromlizing JSC, which will also act as a customer for shipbuilding contracts.

Speaking about Vodohod’s partners, it is important to mention both Mashpromlizing JSC and the Paritetboat Company. Mashpromlizing JSC is one of the leading companies in the Russian leasing market, holding a leading position in the leasing segment of sea and river vessels. The Paritetboat Company has been manufacturing glass bottom boats and high-speed yachts for over 20 years for customers all over the world.

The prerequisites for the start of the project were the desire of the Vodohod company to minimize the impact on the environment and the intention to update its fleet in accordance with modern trends in shipbuilding, based on more energy efficient solutions.

The new electric vessels will not only have improved operational qualities, but also provide greater comfort for passengers. Electric drives significantly reduce noise level and diesel pollution, and ensure a smoother ride. Modern design and comfortable seats will surely satisfy all passengers.

The high-speed Ecocruiser catamaran, which will be part of the Vodohod fleet, can accommodate 120 passengers and 3 crewmembers. The catamaran with a displacement of 62 tons has a length of 31.3 m and a width of 9.2 m, and two engines with a power of 400 kW. Rechargeable batteries up to 1200 kWh provide a range of up to 180 km, and up to 14 hours. The cruising speed of the vessel is 13 km/h, or 7 knots, the maximum speed is 40.7 km/h, or 22 knots. Design, production, warranty and post-warranty service of all five vessels will be carried out under an agreement with “NPK Morsvyazavtomatica”, which has extensive experience in the production of equipment for high loads and corrosive environments intended for industrial facilities and the commercial fleet.

The catamaran “Looker 1100” can accommodate 130 passengers and 3 crewmembers. The total displacement of the catamaran is 61 tons, length – 32.3 m, width – 9.0 m, it has two main engines with a power of 500 kW, its range in economy mode – 12 hours, maximum speed – 40 km/h. For more than 20 years, the Paritetboat Company has been producing high-speed vessels, distinguished by their stylish design and implementation of modern technologies. The company's products are popular with foreign shipping companies and individuals.

The first electric vessels under the signed contract will be launched in September 2021, and it is expected to begin their full operations in season 2022. All vessels will be commissioned by 2023.

One of the most important aspects of the project for the Vodohod company is the obligation to recycle old ships. The financial and economic model of the project assumes the use of the Ship Recycling Grant. The Ship Recycling Grant is a one-time payment to a Russian shipping company when recycling of an old fleet registered in the Russian registry and ordering a new ship from a shipyard in the Russian Federation. A prerequisite for the successful commissioning of electric vessels is the presence of stationary and floating charging stations, and this task has yet to be solved.

The project of equipping the Russian fleet with electric vessels indeed has an exceptional role, both for ensuring environmental safety and for the development of Russian shipbuilding in accordance with global trends.

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