

PRESS RELEASE

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Torqeedo powers public transportation on the water

Deep Blue Hybrid goes commercial | Europe's first electric water taxi christened in Rotterdam | 100 passenger vessel with Deep Blue launched in Ottawa

Deep Blue Hybrid Water taxi is "new icon for Rotterdam"

Watertaxi Rotterdam has expanded their fleet with a 16th boat: The first European water taxi with an electric drive is equipped with Deep Blue Hybrid, powered by Torqeedo. The boat was christened this Wednesday by alderman Pex Langenberg of the City of Rotterdam.

This first commercial application of the award-winning Deep Blue Hybrid combines Torqeedo's powerful Deep Blue drives with a fully integrated, yet modular and scalable, energy management system. The combination of a Deep Blue 80 motor and two generators, delivering 20 kW each, was adapted by Torqeedo to the needs of Watertaxi Rotterdam. The boat holds 12 people, runs at a top speed of 25 km/h and will operate on the River Meuse in the centre of the city which boasts Europe's largest seaport.

The system is very quiet and up to 70% more fuel-efficient than the other boats, minimizing CO₂ and NO_x emissions. The Deep Blue Hybrid system was recently honored with a 2016 Pittman Innovation Award, which recognizes outstanding innovation in new products.

Alderman Langenberg expressed his enthusiasm for the new technology at the christening: "Innovations like this are the future. The hybrid water taxi is a new icon for Rotterdam." He added: "The city of Rotterdam will help realize a new and lower flat fee for the hybrid water taxi."

"We are delighted that Watertaxi Rotterdam decided to use our award-winning Deep Blue Hybrid System to power their famous yellow water taxis", comments Christian Pho Duc, Senior Vice President of Sales, for Torqeedo. "The cooperation was exceptional from the start, and the newly designed boat maximizes the high efficiency of the hybrid propulsion system."

Canada's largest electric passenger boat, powered by Deep Blue

The largest 100% electric passenger boat in Canada, the "Queen Elizabeth Dr.", was officially launched a few days earlier, at the beginning of this summer's cruise season in the French-Canadian capital Ottawa. Powered by a Torqeedo Deep Blue 80 horsepower electric outboard at each end, the 75-foot vessel provides an environmentally friendly tour of Ottawa's beautiful Rideau Canal.

The 100-passenger tour boat is the first of two planned vessels that will offer guided tours and host events on the canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The second, named "Colonel By", will enter service in the spring of 2017.

Robert Taillefer, the owner of “Queen Elizabeth Dr.” and operator of Ottawa Boat Cruises, says: “Torqeedo’s high-power Deep Blue system was the obvious choice to propel Canada’s largest electric passenger vessel because of its comprehensive safety systems.” The boat has two Deep Blue systems installed but only one is in use at a time. “The canal is quite narrow and the boat is long; instead of turning around we use the second system”, Taillefer explains.

Ottawa’s Riverkeeper, Meredith Brown, is pleased to see a new electric powered tour boat in the city. “Our organization is always happy to see new opportunities for people to connect with the river in a sustainable way” says Brown, “and there is nothing like a quiet electric motor to help everyone enjoy the natural sounds of the river.”

Commercial and public entities hoping to develop eco-friendly electric tour boats and water taxis are becoming common Torqeedo customers. Several projects for public transportation are currently in late-stage development.

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