

## MSC Cruises invests in new environmentally-friendly ship for World Class fleet

MSC Cruises has finalised its order for two liquefied natural gas (LNG)-powered vessels with French shipbuilder Chantiers de l'Atlantique. This confirms the two World Class options as firm orders, with the possibility of a fifth ship. The two new ships, currently known as World Class 3 and 4, will be delivered in 2026 and 2027.



Source: Supplied - MSC World America

MSC World Europa and MSC World America are the most energy-efficient cruise ships in the industry, performing much better than the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) requirement. The new World Class ships will be an even more advanced version of the World Class prototype, with innovative solutions to maximize energy efficiency, such as extensive use of heat recovery and other technologies. This will further reduce the ships' carbon footprint.

In addition, the new ships will be able to use a variety of alternative fuels, including bio and synthetic methane and green methanol. They will also be equipped with the next generation of dual-fuel internal combustion engines, which have reduced methane slip.

Pierfrancesco Vago, executive chairman, MSC Cruises, says: "We are proud to continue our 20-year partnership with the Chantiers de l'Atlantique, with whom we have already built 18 ships with our 19th under construction. The World Class is a truly innovative prototype and together we are building some of the most advanced ships in the world. We are committed to researching and investing in future environmental technologies as they become available, to ensure we continue progressing on our decarbonisation journey to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050."

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Laurent Castaing, general manager, Chantiers de l'Atlantique adds: "At a difficult time for the European shipbuilding industry, MSC Cruises has shown its confidence in our abilities and skills with this order. We would therefore like to express our gratitude to MSC Cruises for its renewed confidence at this crucial time."

"In addition, MSC Cruises, always seeking to reduce the environmental impact of its ships quickly and

significantly, has accepted a significant cost premium to improve the energy efficiency of these new ships which, according to the IMO's EEDI index, will emit 50% less CO2 than the IMO's 2008 benchmark."

Castaing continues: "We would also like to thank our government, whose support for our R&D policy to make our ships greener has enabled us to meet the customer's expectations for this order."

The new World Class vessels will feature shore power plug-in connectivity to reduce carbon emissions in port, the most advanced wastewater treatment systems designed in line with the IMO, new advances in waste management, and a comprehensive range of onboard energy-efficient equipment to optimise engine use and hotel energy needs to further reduce emissions.

The two new orders will be subject to access to financing, as per industry practice.

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