

Press release: 11 April 2018

Viking Grace transforms into a sailing ship

Helsinki, Finland – 12 April 2018 – Today the *M/S Viking Grace* sets sail on her first voyage as the only passenger ship in the world equipped with a Rotor Sail to harness wind power for propulsion. Developed by Finnish clean technology and engineering company Norsepower Oy Ltd., the Rotor Sail Solution will cut fuel consumption and reduce carbon emissions by up to 900 tonnes annually. Viking Line will operate the *Viking Grace* on wind-assisted voyages between Turku (Finland) and Stockholm (Sweden) from April 12th 2018.

The cylindrical Rotor Sail unit installed on *M/S Viking Grace* is 24m in height and 4m in diameter, and is a modernised version of the Flettner rotor; a spinning cylinder that uses the Magnus effect to harness wind power to propel a ship. The solution is fully automated and senses whenever the wind is strong enough to deliver fuel savings, at which point the rotors start automatically – optimising crew time and resource.

The use of wind power reflects the green values of Viking Line. The natural environments of the sea and the archipelago are close to the heart of the shipping company based in the Åland Islands. In operation since 2013, the *Viking Grace* is among the most environmentally friendly passenger ships in the world: it is fuelled with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and has very low emissions and noise levels. The new Rotor Sail will only boost her already impressive environmental credentials.

Commenting on the partnership, Jan Hanses, CEO, Viking Line, said:

“This is a great day for us. As an Åland shipping company, we rely on the sea for our livelihood so it’s of prime importance for us to promote the well-being of the marine environment. We want to pioneer the use of solutions that reduce the environmental load. Based in Finland, Norsepower has developed a world-class mechanical Rotor Sail Solution that will reduce fuel consumption. We are proud of the fact that our *Viking Grace* will be the first passenger ship in the world to benefit from this innovative solution.”

The basic design and idea of the Flettner rotor has been around for over 90 years. However, with the rise of environmental regulations, the concept of rotor sails has gained much interest in the global maritime community. This is further fuelled by the advancements in manufacturing, material and technological solutions. Norsepower is years ahead of other players in this space and is recognised as the first commercial provider of auxiliary wind propulsion for shipping.

Tuomas Riski, CEO of Norsepower said:

“For Norsepower, it’s an honour to contribute to making the *M/S Viking Grace* even more environmentally-friendly by means of our novel Rotor Sail technology. The last traditional windjammers in the world were owned and operated by shipping companies based in Åland, so it’s only fitting that Åland-based Viking Line should be a forerunner in launching modern auxiliary sail

technology. Viking Line and Norsepower have collaborated in an excellent manner in retrofitting the Rotor Sail solution on the Viking Grace, and the completion of this project is a great moment for all those involved.”

In addition to the installation onboard the *M/S Viking Grace*, Viking Line will also install two Norsepower Rotor Sails onboard a newbuild cruise ferry vessel which is currently being built in China and due to be operational in 2020.

- ends -

Notes for Editors:

About Viking Line:

Viking Line is a public limited company and a market-leading brand in passenger traffic on the northern Baltic Sea. It offers passenger services, recreation and cargo carrier services on the vessels Gabriella, Mariella, Amorella, Rosella, Viking Cinderella, Viking XPRS and on the new flagship Viking Grace.

About Norsepower:

Norsepower Oy Ltd is a Finnish clean technology and engineering company pioneering modern auxiliary wind propulsion for the global maritime industry. Norsepower's Rotor Sail Solution is a proven, low-maintenance, easy to use, and reliable fuel saving technology, supporting the decarbonisation of the shipping industry.

For more information on the Norsepower Rotor Sail Solution, please visit www.norsepower.com.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 738282.



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union

More information:

Viking Line

Johanna Boijer-Svahnström
Vice President, Corporate Communications
T: +358 18 277 48
E: johanna.boijer@vikingline.com

Christa Grönlund

Communications Manager, Marketing Communications

T: +358 9 123 5242

E: christa.gronlund@vikingline.com

Norsepower

Kwilole Chisuse-van der Boom

BLUE Communications

T: +44 (0) 7885 463 927 / +44 1865 514 214

E: kwilole@blue-comms.com