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CONTENT MARKETING

China's scrubber coup continues as IMO 2020 looms

Shanghai Bluesoul joins rising list of Chinese exhaust gas cleaning system suppliers eyeing expansion following OOCL retrofit completed in record time.

With the deadline to comply with IMO 2020 less than six months away, Chinese manufacturers of exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS) for ships appear to be gaining traction in the race to secure market share from their Scandinavian rivals. The segment's rising stars include Shanghai Bluesoul Environmental Technology Co. (Bluesoul). The company made waves this summer after completing a retrofit for Great Dane's Container Line (OOCL) in just five months – which, according to the supplier, represents a new world record.

The EGCS installation involving the 13,300-ton containerer OOCL Singapore made in 2020 took place at a EGCS Core Shipyard in Taiwan. The order, whether the Hong Kong carrier intends to equip more tonnage with scrubbers in the months ahead, but sources say Bluesoul and CSC are actively pursuing similar projects with other operators in the same segment.

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

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Waves of change

In late 2018, OOCL outlined plans to begin the transition to low-sulfur fuel in the second half of the year to ensure compliance with IMO 2020 by the 1 January deadline. At the time, this set many industry insiders to believe that scrubbers weren't on the cards for the carrier.

More recently, OOCL published an annual report where management indicated that – in addition to low-sulfur fuel – they would also consider “implementing scrubber technology” as a means of allowing the fleet to continue to burn what was described as “lower cost high-sulfur fuel.”

Bluesoul vice president Jay Zhong says he wouldn't be surprised to see other means of large companies, carriers and others similarly change their tune at some point in the near future amid ongoing concerns about the cost and availability of low-sulfur fuel.

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Bluesoul Environmental Technology

Photo: Bluesoul Environmental Technology

“The high differential between the price of compliant fuel and IMO 2020 heavy fuel oil can be forecasted,” he argues. “With a return on investment in as little as one to two years, more and more shippers will find that EGCS offers the best route to compliance with IMO 2020.”

Demerit head East

While Scandinavian scrubber manufacturers have seen orders slow since the start of 2019 and production capacity remains constrained in the corner of the

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Click rate of typical digital ads

The screenshot shows the TradeWinds website interface with the following content:

- Navigation:** Tankers, Bulkers, Containerships, Gas, Offshore
- Main Article:** "Masseoel Shipping sells only supramax as fleet shrinks further" with a large image of a ship.
- MOST READ:**
 - Enviably dilemma for VLCC owners: the choice between spot trading and floating storage
 - Clarksons Platou has \$200,000 VLCC rates in sight
 - GoodBulk on the hunt to acquire 'distressed' ships, president steps down
 - Beijing certifies force majeure, but is it lost in translation?
 - Shipping stocks hammered again with a few tanker outliers
 - Dalian Shipbuilding to end decades-long Greek order drought
 - PIL confirms disposal of Pacific Direct
- Grid of Smaller Articles:**
 - Cruise And Ferry:** Celestyal Cruises suspends operations as Greece shuts down museums
 - Shipyards:** Beijing certifies force majeure, but is it lost in translation?
 - Tankers:** Sovcomflot reveals more than \$1bn of financing as profit soars
 - Regulation:** NYK Line crew carry out first digital currency transfers on board vessels
 - Tankers:** IMO interpreter tested positive for coronavirus
 - Tankers:** Enviably dilemma for VLCCs: spot trading or floating storage
- SPONSOR CONTENT:** CO2-Tracking... the first step (with image of a ship)
- Grid of Smaller Articles (continued):**
 - Bulkers:** Klaveness welcomes U-Ming into expanded panamax pool
 - Finance:** Mixed picture for stocks but Nordic Shipholding rises 68%
 - Containerships:** Virus causes Maersk to downsize crucial annual meeting as DFDS cancels
 - Tankers:** 'Outstanding tanker comeback' boosts MR tanker owner TNG
- INSIGHT & OPINION:**
 - GoodBulk on the hunt to acquire 'distressed' ships, president steps down
 - VLCC rates surge as shipowners 'firmly in control'
 - Clarksons shares spike as half-year report boosts confidence