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Minke Marine eyes ALS expansion after successful trial

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USA-based air lubrication system (ALS) specialist Minke Marine claims its new patented ALS can deliver substantial fuel and carbon savings with an investment of less than \$485,000 following a successful pilot installation.

The Minke ALS underwent a ten-month operation aboard the Saga Shipholding's 55,000 dwt general cargo vessel *Saga Future*. Data show a 7% gross fuel saving and

significant emissions reductions, positioning it at the forefront of marine energy-saving equipment.

“We believe this sets a new standard in ALS systems. Given that these results are from a slow-steaming general cargo vessel, we believe we can achieve even across all vessel types, particularly vehicle and gas carriers, as well as cruise and container ships. This is just the beginning,” said Minke co-founder Giles Candy.

Saga and the vessel’s manager, Anglo-Eastern Ship Management, worked with Minke’s integration partner, Aitken Marine International, and DNV to obtain design engineering approval and to procure, fabricate, and install the system during a scheduled dry-docking. With a three-month fast-track lead time, the installation was completed ahead of schedule, reflecting the simplicity of the system design.

“Saga has driven efficiency for years, and air lubrication offers another step forward. What attracted us to the Minke system is its simplicity and cost-effectiveness. Saga is very happy to have taken what 18 months ago seemed quite a bold step. The fundamentals were there, and now that it is operational, we can see the system works well with the vessel and crew. We’re very happy with the results and hope to be expanding the project soon,” added Nils-Otto Bjorhovde, head of technical at Saga.

