The Little Bender That Could

June 30, 2020

Okay it’s not that little – it can bend up to 220 metric tons (240 US tons).

But in the larger scheme of the U.S. economy, security and infrastructure; or of the country’s
maritime competitiveness; or even the financial health of the Dakota Creek Industries shipyard and its 300 production jobs; this little bender has the potential to make a mighty big difference.

Dakota Creek recently installed the Stierli-Bieger 2200 SE CNC horizontal ram bender in its Anacortes, Wash. shipyard. It is the first of its kind in the U.S., and it adds a steel fabrication capability that was previously only available in Europe. The Stierli bender is an important link in the shipyard’s – and the country’s – production process. It gives Dakota Creek the ability to craft complex opposing port and starboard hull rib frames that shift in angle and radius from bow to stern. The shipyard will use it initially to form bulb profile hull stiffeners for the tugs, fishing boats, barges, research vessels and oil recovery ships that it produces for fleets on the Pacific, Gulf and Atlantic Coasts.

The addition of the Stierli bender will dramatically increase productivity for Dakota Creek. According to Mike Nelson, Dakota Creek owner and vice president, “The Stierli will allow us to expand our daily production from around three sets of hull frames (six total port and starboard) for three people to 12 sets (24 total frames) using only one or two people and, as we get our team’s familiarity and skills up to speed on the new machine even greater productivity will be possible. It will also allow us to bid jobs more competitively – because it will take us fewer manhours to do the same work. Where we once might have been priced out of a job, we will have a better shot at winning the bids.”
The Stierli bender’s CNC controls will also help automate parts of the process and make production of these complex designs even more efficient. The maximum bending capacity on the Stierli 2200 is HP300 bulb profiles.

With the bender in place, Dakota Creek also raises its ability to do more sophisticated hull forms. “The complexity of new ship hull designs has only increased,” Nelson says. “As ship designers work to make hulls more hydrodynamic and energy efficient and make the factories or workspace on the boats more effective, hull designs are becoming more challenging. Now we can more efficiently take on these challenges here in Anacortes.

The Dakota Creek purchase of the Stierli bender was made possible by a 2017 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD). It was part of $9.8 million in grants designed to strengthen U.S. shipyard competitiveness. The MARAD grants invested in 18 small U.S. shipyards through its Small Shipyard Grant Program, supporting industrial modernizations that increase productivity and allow these shipyards to compete effectively in the global

Offshore Wind is the focus of this special April 2021 eMag edition from Maritime Reporter & Engineering News (MR), combining the resources of MR + sister-publications Marine News and Offshore Engineer

Inside the Red-Hot Offshore Wind Market

US Jobs from US Offshore Energy, a Goal 44 Years in
marketplace. Stierli-Bieger is represented in the U.S. by Boschert USA.

Nelson sees great potential for applying the new bender to future projects – both newbuilds and repairs. “We have a number of projects in the queue where we see the Stierli bender being a great addition to our process.”

The installation of the machine on the floor of the Dakota Creek manufacturing facility caused something of a stir. It attracted a crowd of ten or so operators to see how it worked and what it was capable of bending. Under the guidance of Stierli-Bieger’s Felix Meier, who set up the bender and trained the Dakota Creek staff, the operators began to realize the real capabilities of the machine. “Now that we are seeing how it functions and how easily it can be adapted, we are only starting to realize what other tasks we can perform with it, says Nelson. “It is great to see the enthusiasm of our team as they explore and discover the Stierli’s capabilities. It is that kind of interest and excitement in doing great work that makes Dakota Creek successful.”
Related News
14 May 2021
Second Jones Act Waiver Granted to Citgo After Colonial Outage

Sponsored Content
Get your communication costs under control.
Unexpected bills and escalating data costs can become a thing of the past.

(Photo: Boschert USA)
administration granted oil refiner Citgo Petroleum a maritime shipping waiver allowing it to move fuel between U.S.

13 May 2021

**Jones Act Waiver Granted to Valero After Colonial Shutdown**

was granted a Jones Act waiver, sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday, after...

13 May 2021

**Golar Taps Karl Fredrik Staubo as CEO**

announced on Thursday it has appointed Karl Fredrik Staubo as CEO, filling the void left by prior chief executive Iain Ross...

13 May 2021

**U.S. Grants Jones Act Waiver to Company to Ease**
Fuel Supply Shortages after Cyber-attack on Pipeline

The U.S. government relaxed a long-standing maritime law protecting domestic shipping commerce to allow an undisclosed company...

12 May 2021

Alfa Laval Tallies LPG Fuel Supply Systems Order in Japan

Alfa Laval said it has won an order for three units of the Alfa Laval FCM LPG, the low-flashpoint fuel supply system (LFSS)...

11 May 2021

FUTURE FUELS: Could Hydrogen be the Answer to Shipping’s Decarbonization Goals?

Climate change and reliable,

Senior Ferry Crew Member

• NC Department of Transportation Ferry Division • Hatteras, NC, US

Steward Cook

• Military Sealift Command

Lagging Handyman

• Tidewater Staffing • Chesapeake, VA, United States

Cook Baker

• Military Sealift Command

Port Steward

• Richmond, CA, United States
clean, low emission fuels are the important factors for ship operators since January 1, 2020.

10 May 2021

**US Navy**

Commissions **USS Miguel Keith (ESB 5)**

The U.S. Navy commissioned its newest Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) ship USS Miguel Keith (ESB 5) Saturday, at Naval Air Station North Island...

10 May 2021

**Tech File: Schottel SRP 710 for KPA Salvage Tug**

A pair of Schottel RudderPropellers type SRP 710 have left the German production site in Wismar and are on their way to the...

10 May 2021

**Fratelli Cosulich Orders LNG Bunkering Vessel in China**
Italian firm Fratelli Cosulich Group has ordered a liquefied natural gas (LNG) bunkering vessel. The ship, which will be built in China...

Trending News
12 May 2021
theDOCK to Launch New Fund Focused on Maritime Tech

14 May 2021
A Newbuild VLOC is the First Wind-powered Bulk Carrier

12 May 2021
US Coast Guard Issues RFP for New Waterways Commerce Cutters