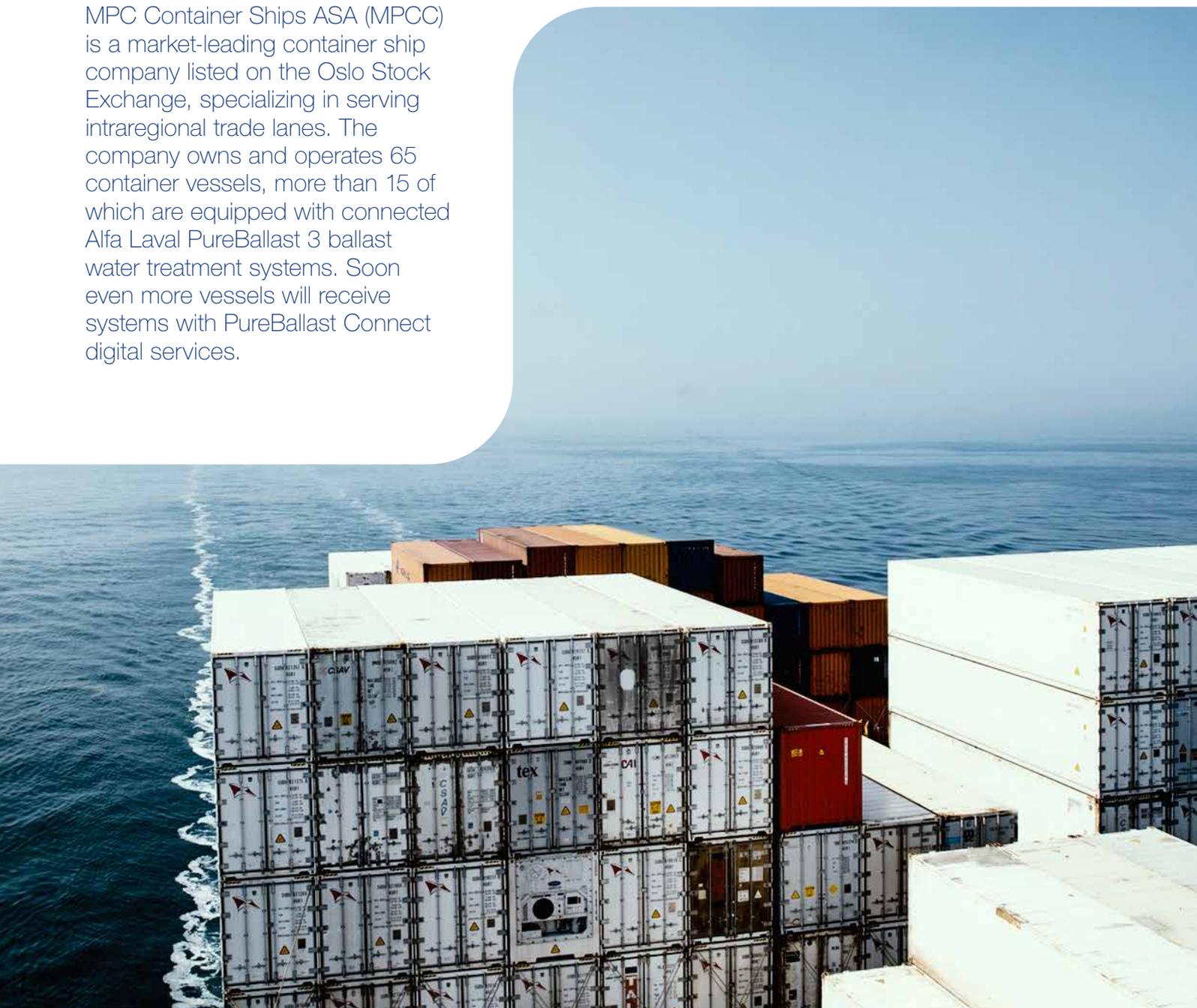




PureBallast Connect brings smart value to ballast water treatment

Customer: MPC Container Ships ASA

MPC Container Ships ASA (MPCC) is a market-leading container ship company listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange, specializing in serving intraregional trade lanes. The company owns and operates 65 container vessels, more than 15 of which are equipped with connected Alfa Laval PureBallast 3 ballast water treatment systems. Soon even more vessels will receive systems with PureBallast Connect digital services.





Connectivity prioritized from the start

MPCC will retrofit a large number of PureBallast 3 ballast water treatment systems in the coming years – all of them with PureBallast Connect digital services. The decision to include connectivity is forward-thinking, but it is also based on positive experience. Over the past year, MPCC has already implemented PureBallast Connect on more than 15 vessels.

“For new equipment like ballast water treatment systems, the possibility to remotely access the systems provides several benefits,” says Philipp Niesing, Managing Director at MPCC Verwaltungs GmbH, who has overseen both previous and upcoming PureBallast Connect projects. While convinced about PureBallast 3 performance, he and his team want to minimize all potential for needless cost or hassle.

“It was important for us from the start that Alfa Laval could access and troubleshoot the systems remotely, in order to avoid deploying service technicians to cater for small needs,” Niesing relates. “We want to have our systems ready for use and compliant at all times, so as to prevent issues with port state officers and interruptions to our customers’ routes and operations.”

Easy implementation and access

Getting PureBallast 3 and PureBallast Connect onto MPCC vessels has been a simple matter. “PureBallast 3 is flexible and has a very small footprint, which makes it easy to retrofit on existing vessels,” Niesing says.

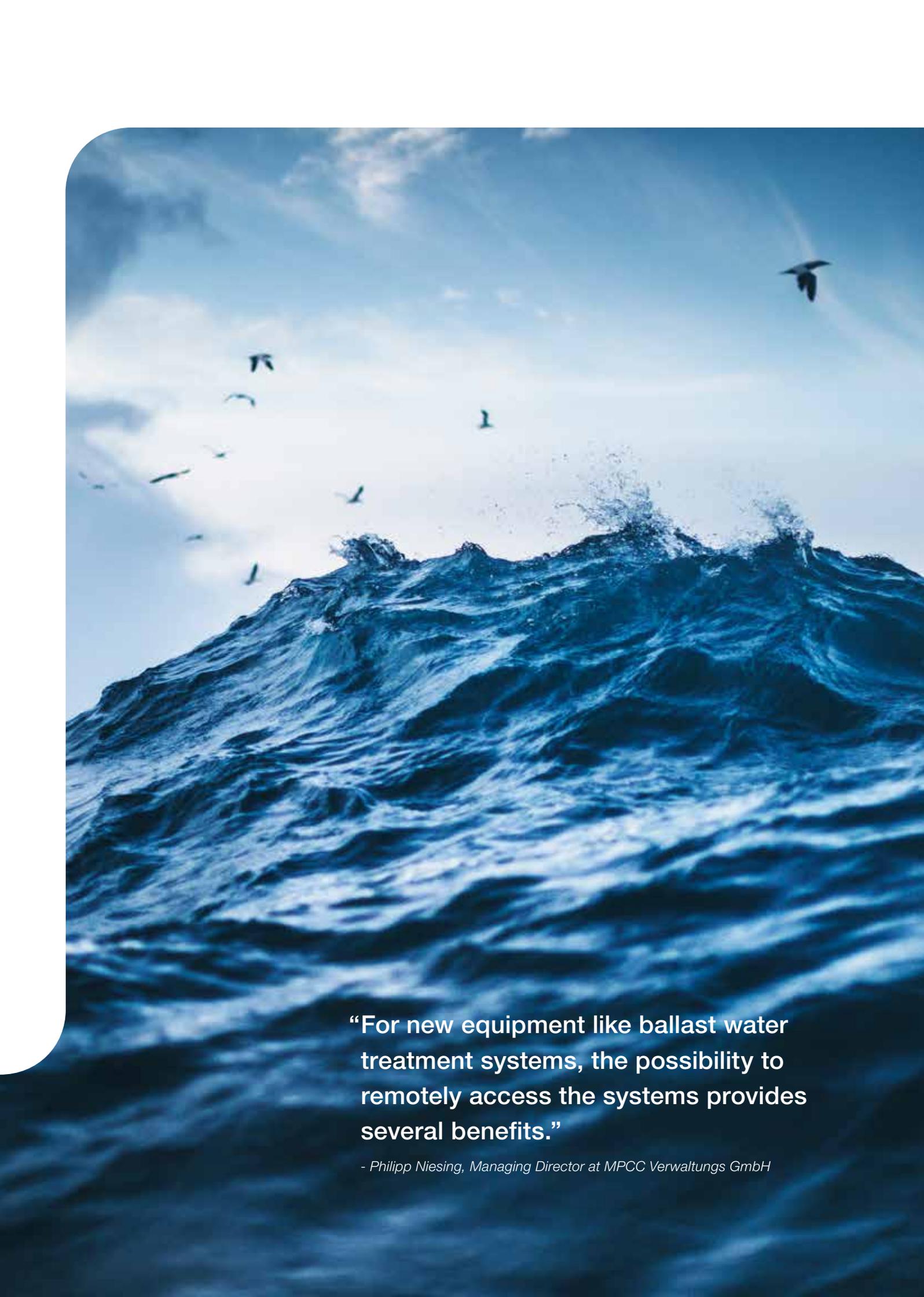
“The connectivity hardware, which was delivered with the systems and installed at the shipyard, needs only a few things – power and LAN connections, and of course access from our IT department.”

With PureBallast Connect up and running, MPCC can view data from connected PureBallast 3 systems using a secure online portal. Multiple data points can be retrieved via PureBallast Connect, including alarms, parameters and operational values such as temperature and pressure. Since both current and historical information is available, trends become easy to identify.

“We’re working with Alfa Laval to further optimize the portal and system reports for our needs, so as to get the most out of PureBallast Connect,” says Niesing. “Overall, Alfa Laval has a very well-organized and professional team, and they genuinely take care of their customers.”

Keeping service costs as low as possible

In PureBallast Connect, Niesing sees smart ways to prevent downtime and reduce service costs. Using the data from the online portal, MPCC can avoid unneeded service visits, as well as make essential visits more cost-effective.



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- Philipp Niesing, Managing Director at MPCC Verwaltungs GmbH



“With the data, we can check a ballast water treatment system’s condition and look into its past,” Niesing explains. “Even if we can’t solve the problem, we can at least know what it is or might be. That way the service engineer can have the right parts at hand upon arrival. We won’t have to wait for the parts or schedule a second visit to install them, which means it will take less time to return to normal operation.”

Above all, Niesing thinks this will be an advantage as the systems age. “Since our first PureBallast 3 systems were installed and commissioned, all of them have been running without issue,” he says. “But things eventually happen over a product’s lifetime, so the connectivity will become more important as the ballast water treatment systems get older.”

Making life easier on crews

Niesing emphasizes that connectivity has benefits for MPCC crews as well as the service budget. “The crews are well trained, but we want to facilitate immediate crew support to the extent possible,” he says. “Crews are challenged to handle a range of sophisticated technologies on board, and connectivity provides an opportunity for prompt support in troubleshooting. Alfa Laval has reliable, well-working and easy-to-use systems, but every bit helps.”

Using PureBallast Connect’s online portal, superintendents can support vessels by following the parameters, conditions and alarms of connected ballast water treatment systems. “If something happens, crews contact the superintendent, who will be able to see what actions can be taken,” says Niesing. “The superintendents are able to validate system performance themselves, and they can also take advantage of Alfa Laval’s expert knowledge. Having that access is important.”

Peace of mind for MPCC customers

The greatest benefit, of course, is for the customers who depend on MPCC vessels – even if they never encounter PureBallast Connect directly. Working behind the scenes, connectivity will help them avoid business difficulties.

“As long as a vessel only calls at a small number of consecutive ports, it can deal with issues by performing ballast operations outside the coastal area,” Niesing says. “But if the vessel serves more ports amongst which loading conditions change, life without a ballast water treatment system becomes very difficult. It is in our interest as a tonnage provider to ensure our customers never end up in that situation.”

“We strive to be a modern tonnage provider, and connectivity is part of that ambition,” Niesing concludes. “Connectivity adds compliance security, and that is the most important aspect.”

How to contact Alfa Laval

Up-to-date Alfa Laval contact details for all countries are always available on our website at www.alfalaval.com

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