

IPS-powered pilot boat

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The busy Strait of Messina which separates the island of Sicily from the Italian mainland is now home to a new pilot boat, manufactured by Bellcraft and powered by Volvo Penta's Inboard Performance System (IPS).



Bellcraft Work 12

The Bellcraft Work 12, commissioned by the Guild of Messina Strait Pilots is powered by twin Volvo Penta IPS450 and matched to two six-litre engines, will flank up to 13,000 ships per year in the busy sea channel.

Volvo Penta's innovative IPS was selected for installation in the boat due to its excellent performance capabilities and durability.

"The Strait of Messina is crossed by about thirteen thousand ships a year, which means that the pilot boat will accrue a very high number of work hours," says Giuseppe Raffa, long course captain of the Guild of Messina Strait Pilots. "The Volvo Penta IPS system will allow us to obtain more power with the same weight, and fuel savings of up to 30 per cent."

The Bellcraft Work 12 was given an official welcome to the port by Commander Livio Maria Donato, chief pilot of the Guild of Messina Strait Pilots, and a presentation by Volvo Penta executives was held, followed by sea trials.



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Bellcraft, based in Viareggio, in Italy's north-western Province of Lucca, has been building workboats for more than 30 years. The Bellcraft Work 12 is fitted with twin Volvo Penta D6-330 engines and matched with IPS450 pod drives.

The D6-330 engine has a common-rail fuel injection, double overhead camshafts, turbocharger, and aftercooler. It produces torque of 810 Nm at 2500 rpm, and has a maximum power of 3500 rpm.

Volvo Penta's IPS450 is perfectly matched to the D6-330 engine. As with all Volvo Penta IPS drives, the twin forward-facing, counter-rotating propellers sit below the hull in undisturbed water, which enable superior grip for excellent performance and low emissions.

By Jake Frith

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