



Birthplace of the diesel engine

Visionary focus as the basis for long-lasting success

July 2009 – The MAN Diesel Group is able to look back on a long tradition unlike that of any other diesel engine manufacturer. After all, it was in the company's Augsburg plant that Rudolf Diesel developed the world's first diesel engine between 1893 and 1897. The intensive promotion of the new diesel process bears testimony to the company's visionary focus, which still today forms the basis for long-lasting success. Heinrich von Buz, the then General Director of the Maschinenfabrik Augsburg – a forerunner of the modern-day MAN Group – supported engineer Rudolf Diesel in his research, knowing fine well that a success with the new heat engine would represent a huge danger for the Maschinenfabrik's existing business with steam engines. In 1897, Diesel managed to unveil his first operational engine to an interested audience, and this model is now on display in the Deutsches Museum in Munich.

After this, MAN focused on the production of power plant and marine engines. In 1901, a crosshead-free, four-stroke engine ran for the first time. Three years later, the Augsburg diesel experts supplied the world's first large diesel power plant for the central power distribution unit for the tram network in Kiev. Six MAN four-cylinder, four-stroke engines with an output of 400 HP each at 160 rpm were outstanding by the standards of the day.

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With the maiden voyage of the SELANDIA, the first sea-going diesel engine vessel in the world, Diesel's Danish licensee Burmeister & Wain (now B&W, the two-stroke product brand of the MAN Diesel Group), marked its entry into marine engine construction. The two main engines delivered over 1,050 HP each. Today, the MAN Diesel Group offers two-stroke engines with outputs that are over 100 times greater.

The company was and still is the leader in the development of vehicle diesel engines and exhaust gas turbochargers as well. In 1923, the first car diesel engine with direct injection was unveiled, and eleven years later development began on exhaust turbochargers for diesel engines. Further milestones in the company's history came in 1950 with the unveiling of the first turbocharged four-stroke diesel engine that achieved a thermal efficiency of 46% and in 1952 with the construction of the first two-stroke diesel engine with exhaust gas turbocharging.

The attention of the engineers at MAN Diesel has always been focused not only on improving performance, but also on reducing consumption. In 1984, the company launched the most powerful series four-stroke engine, delivering 1,650 HP per cylinder and having the world's lowest fuel consumption of 167 g/kWh, onto the market.

The ME engine, which went into practical operation for the first time in 2000, is a stepping stone towards a future of large engine construction that combines the tradition of diesel with state-of-the-art technologies. This two-stroke engine, in which key functions are controlled electronically, offers better fuel utilisation, particularly in the partial load sector, which not only cuts consumption but also reduces emissions. In 2004, MAN Diesel

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unveiled to the public its first large diesel engine with electronically controlled common-rail technology, which brings these advantages to four-stroke series as well. The latest technological developments include dual-fuel-engines, which can use heavy oil, marine diesel and gas. A further pioneering new development is the 32/40PGI gas engine, which for the first time combines the advantages of a highly efficient diesel engine with those of a low-emissions petrol engine and can operate without spark plugs.

Today, the MAN Diesel Group and its licensees are the world market leaders in propulsion systems for large, ocean-going vessels. The company is also one of the leading suppliers of diesel power plants. The Group, which employs around 8,000 people worldwide, has production facilities in Germany, Denmark, France, the Czech Republic, China and India and achieved an annual revenue of around Euro 2.5 billion in 2008.

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