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Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd.

New Conceptual Designs for LNG-fueled and Battery-Powered Energy-Saving Bulk Carriers  
~Approvals in Principle (AIP) Obtained from ClassNK~

Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd. (“K” LINE) jointly developed two conceptual designs for LNG-fueled and battery-powered energy-saving bulk carriers and obtained Approvals in Principle (AIP) (Note 1) from Japan’s ship classification society Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK). “K” LINE developed a conceptual design for 200,000 ton class capesize bulk carrier in collaboration with Namura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. and Taiyo Electric Co., Ltd. The other design was jointly created by “K” LINE, Shin Kurushima Sanoyas Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., and Taiyo Electric Co., Ltd for 90,000 ton class post-Panamax bulk carrier.

By selecting low-carbon LNG as the primary fuel source, an energy-saving vessel has been designed that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The design was further enhanced by adopting permanent magnet (PM) shaft generator (Note 2) technology, along with lithium-ion batteries, which are already being used in a wide range of fields in the society. Moreover, by utilizing batteries as part of the platform for power supply on board, the aim is to further reduce emissions going forward by later adding green energy sources with energy-saving technology.

[AIP technical features and their benefits]

1. Utilizing LNG fuel

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 25% to 30% compared to the use of conventional heavy fuel oil.

2. Adoption of shaft generator technology

- By producing electricity with shaft generator technology, fuel efficiency is improved compared to power generation with a conventional dual fuel generator. (By using shaft generator and battery technologies, an emissions reduction of about 2.5% to 3.0% is expected, compared to an LNG-powered vessel without those two technologies.)
- By eliminating the need to operate generators during voyages, the maintenance workload for the ship’s crew will be significantly reduced along with the associated maintenance costs.
- By adopting PM shaft generators, efficiency is improved by about 10% compared to conventional shaft generators.

3. Battery technology adoption

- Small-capacity batteries (reducing emissions during voyages)  
Small-capacity batteries with excellent charge and discharge rates will be used for auxiliary power during peak hours of onboard demand. They will also be utilized to store surplus electricity.

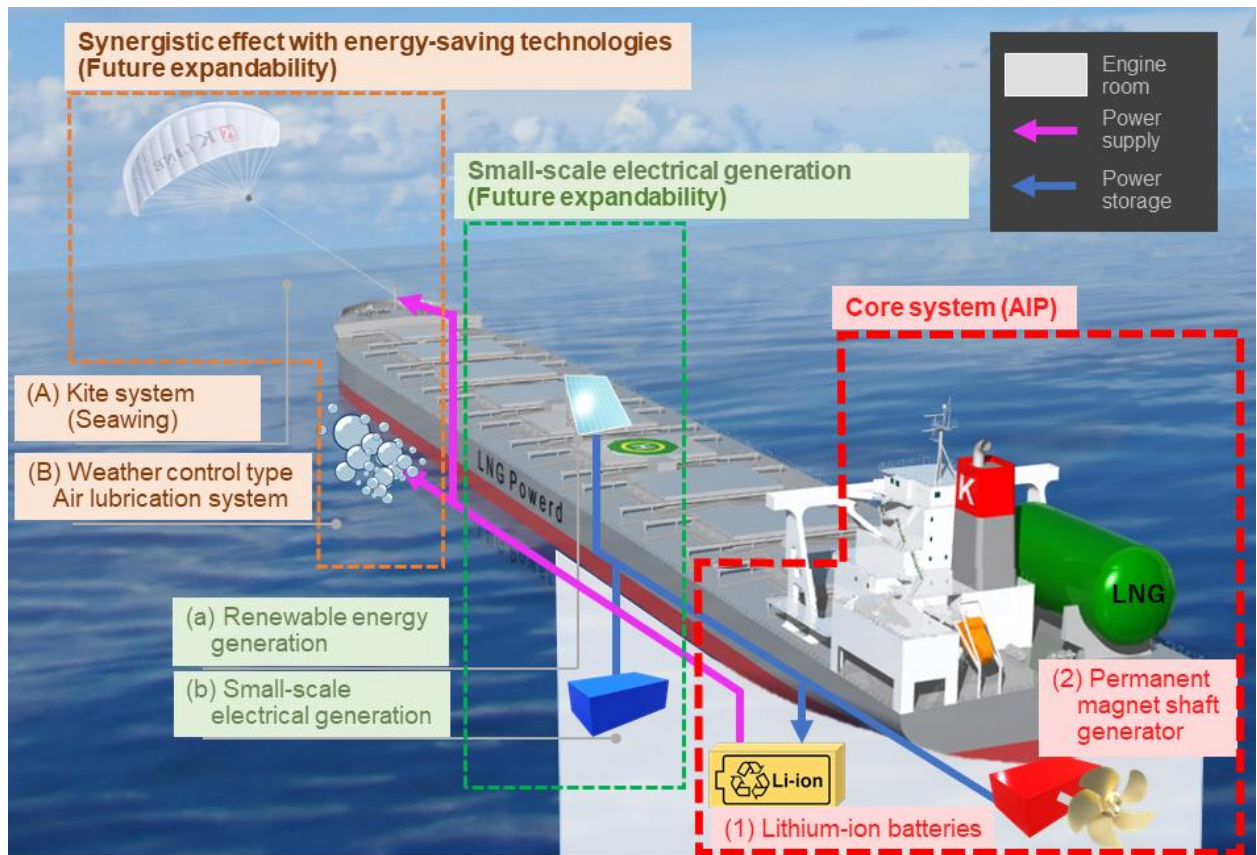
- Large-capacity batteries (reducing emissions during cargo handling)
 

In the new post-Panamax carrier design, emissions will be reduced by using large-capacity batteries instead of a dual fuel generator during cargo loading and unloading. (The number of dual fuel generators installed can be reduced by one.)

In the new capesize carrier design, the battery capacity will be greater due to amount of power required during cargo handling. Here emissions during cargo handling will also be reduced by enabling vessel connection to shore power (Note 3).

[Image of Future next-generation bulk carrier]

In addition to the equipment for greenhouse gas emissions reduction under the recent AIPs, the aim is to further reduce emissions going forward by installing various optional technologies.



Synergistic effect with energy-saving technologies		Small-scale electrical generation		Core system	
(A) Kite system (Seawing)	Controlled by batteries and onboard power Absorption of load fluctuations	(a) Renewable energy generation	Utilizing the latest forms of renewable power generation such as solar power	(1) Lithium-ion batteries	Electricity generation using shaft generators and renewable small-scale power generation
(B) Weather-controlled air lubrication system	Operates on batteries and power stored onboard Deployed with on/off switch depending on the weather	(b) Small-scale electrical generation	Utilizing small-scale electrical generation from sources such as waste heat	(2) Permanent magnet shaft generator	Zero-emission dual fuel generator operation at sea Battery charging Maintaining optimal main engine load for fuel efficiency

Last November, “K” LINE partially revised its Environmental Vision 2050 (Note 4) and decided to take on the challenge of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. “K” LINE views this challenge as one of the concrete initiatives that will help achieve its vision by 2050.

While public attention to the greenhouse gas emissions including from shipping is becoming increasing, “K” LINE will actively work to reduce environmental impact by researching, developing, and introducing ships with excellent environmental performance to achieve our goal set on “K” LINE Environmental Vision 2050 .

(Note 1) An Approval in Principle (AIP) indicates that a certification body has reviewed and approved the conceptual design. This means the design meets relevant technical requirements and standards, even in the case of new technologies and areas not specifically covered by current regulations.

(Note 2) A shaft generator uses the rotation of the ship’s propeller shaft to generate electricity.

(Note 3) A system that allows ships to switch off their generators when docked and obtain the necessary electricity through a connection to the onshore power grid.

(Note 4) Released Nov 4, 2021: The Challenge of Achieving Net-Zero GHG Emissions  
Revision of 2050 Targets for “K” LINE Environmental Vision 2050  
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