



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

# Sagar Sandesh

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## X-Press Feeders to receive delivery of 14 dual-fuel container ships on order from Q1 2024



A Member of the X-Press Feeders' Group

**G**lobal maritime container shipping company, X-Press Feeders, has announced that it will be receiving its first dual-fuel ship in the first quarter of 2024 and that it will be using dual-fuel ships powered by **Green Methanol** to launch services linking the port of Rotterdam to Baltic states and Scandinavia.

X-Press Feeders has 14 dual-fuel ships on order for delivery from Q1 2024. The company will receive eight vessels in 2024, while the remaining six will be delivered in 2025-2026, he said.

It is taking significant steps to transition to renewable energy and reduce its carbon footprint. It also shows there is significant demand for more sustainable shipping services in markets such as Scandinavia.

**Eco Maestro**, a methanol-powered ship ordered by X-Press Feeders, is docked at the port of Shanghai, in Shanghai, China, November 2023. X-Press Feeders/ Handout via REUTERS/ File photo [Acquire Licensing Rights](#)



Eco Maestro

Singapore-based container shipper X-Press Feeders plans to use a green methanol bunker to fuel part of its fleet in Europe in the second quarter of 2024, a senior executive said last week.

The move comes as the European Union will extend its Emissions Trading System (ETS) next year to cover carbon dioxide emissions for all ships of 5,000 gross tonnage and above entering EU ports.

Shippers can buy carbon credits to offset emissions or burn lower-carbon fuels such as methanol and biofuels, although the supply of these fuels is **limited**. X-Press Feeders, which operates more than 100 vessels globally, has ordered 14 dual-fuel ships that can burn methanol and conventional bunker fuel.

The first such vessel, Chinese-built Eco Maestro, is expected to sail from Shanghai to Rotterdam via the Suez Canal, refueling with green methanol supplied by OCI Global at key bunker ports along the way, said Francis Goh, chief operating officer at X-Press Feeders.

These ships will ply routes from Rotterdam to ports in Scandinavia and the Baltic states, Goh said.

"For a start, we will deploy them in Europe, and in a few years' time, we see deployment potential for them in other countries, maybe in the Americas, where we also have significant presence," he added.

Using green methanol, which is produced from biomass or captured carbon and hydrogen from renewable power, can reduce carbon dioxide emissions for its

ships by 65% compared with conventional fuels, Goh said, adding that securing sufficient supply is a challenge.

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## MARINE NEWS

## TOURISM 6000 cruise tourists at Hambantota International Port

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**T**he passengers arrived on 5 cruise liners that called at the port.

The 'Azamara Journey' docked on the 29th November carrying 620 passengers. The Luxury cruise liner *Mein Schiff 5* which arrived in Sri Lanka from Muscat on the 10th of December, called at HIP on the 11th, carrying 2200 passengers. A group of disembarking passengers from the luxury liner got on e-bikes to go sightseeing in the Hambantota area, keeping with HIP's green-port drive. This is the cruise ship's second call for 2023, and its 3rd call at the port, counting the visit in May last year. Other cruise ships that called were the 'Celebrity Millennium' on the 5th and 16th of December carrying 3500 passengers and the 'Nautica' which arrived on the 19th bringing 498 visitors.

To date this year, HIP has recorded approximately 22 cruise ship calls with most of them arriving from Chennai, via Cordelia Cruise Lines. The shipping line, which offers holiday packages to Indian and international



The Hambantota International port (HIP) welcomed over 6000 tourists to Sri Lanka, in the latter part of November and during December 2023.

travelers, made a number of ship calls to HIP from June to September this year, on their cruise liner 'Empress.' **Approximately 7500 tourists arrived at the port throughout the year.**

The *Nautica* and the *Celebrity Millennium* are bound for Phuket Thailand as their next port of call while the 'Azamara Journey' is headed to Sabang, Indonesia. The *Mein Schiff 5* is on her onward journey to the Langkawi archipelago in Malaysia.

**The port's initiatives to develop the cruise business as well as enhanced facilities to ships and passengers have paid off, resulting in the increase of ship calls HIP**

## Yet another first for Gujarat: Submarine tourism

AHMEDABAD  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

**I**n a yet another first by Gujarat the state government is planning to introduce submarine Tourism off the Dwarka coast. The Gujarat government has joined hands with the Mumbai based Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL) in a project to explore the marine life surrounding Bet Dwarka, a small island off the coast of Dwarka city, which has a mythological significance in the Hindu religion

The tourism facility is likely to be operationalised before Diwali 2024 according to media reports. The project is on the lines of the Titanic submersible expedition,

which recently made news after one of its vessels tragically imploded in the Atlantic Ocean.

It will enable tourists to dive 100 meters below the sea in a submarine to experience the marine life around the island. The place is believed to have a submerged city, which was created by Lord Krishna, according to mythological texts.

The submarine will have a capacity to carry 30 passengers. A top official of the state Tourism department was quoted as saying that it is a "different project" that will give a significant boost to tourism in the city.



"Failure is a lesson learned; success is a lesson applied."

## X-Press Feeders to receive delivery..... From Page : 1

The company has a term contract with green methanol supplier **OCI Global** from 2024, and is in talks with other western producers to secure more supplies, he said.

**OCI Global (OCLAS) the world's biggest producer of green methanol**, plans to double the production capacity at its Texas facility to 400,000 metric tons per year, the company said in a statement on Thursday.

The Dutch green fuel maker grows its capacity in response to a huge demand for green methanol from carbon emission-high industries like shipping, an industry responsible for around 3% of global emissions each year.

"We continue to see more and more realisation that methanol is the transportation sector's most viable solution and the easiest way to transport and use renewable hydrogen today," Bashir Lebada, CEO of OCI Methanol/HyFuels said in a statement.

Green methanol is produced either from biomass or captured carbon and hydrogen from renewable power sources.

Demand for green methanol will exceed 6 million tonnes by 2028, OCI projects, due to the adoption of green methanol as a shipping fuel.

Sailing on green methanol can reduce carbon emissions from container vessels by 60% to 95% compared to conventional fossil fuels.

The number of methanol-fuelled vessels is **expected to exceed** 200 by 2028, up from 30 this year, consultancy DNV forecasts as the shipping industry hopes to achieve a goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

OCI supplied green methanol for the maiden journey of the first-ever Maersk-owned green methanol-fuelled **container vessel** sailing from South Korea to Denmark via the Suez Canal this summer.



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