

For Immediate Release

First U.S.-built Voith Schneider Propellers delivered to North Carolina DOT

- *VSP propulsion systems offer precise maneuvering and fast response time for safe operations for vessels with a high demand for maneuverability like the new ferry for NCDOT*
- *Construction at Voith's York, Pennsylvania, plant allows VSP users to fulfill "Buy America" requirements*
- *The two VSP units will help a ferry safely shuttle passengers and vehicles between islands in the Outer Banks*

HATTERAS, N.C./YORK, Pa. (March 28, 2019) – The first two American-made Voith Schneider Propeller (VSP) units have been delivered and installed in the Rodanthe, a ferry to be operated by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and used in its service to the Outer Banks, a string of barrier islands between North Carolina and the Atlantic Ocean.

"With the new VSP units installed, the Rodanthe will offer years of smooth, efficient service to the islands. By linking steering and propulsion together, the VSP allows for fast response and precision movement in even the roughest of waters. This helps the operators pilot their ferry better while also keeping passengers and cargo safe thanks to the VSP's superior handling in comparison to other propulsion systems available on the market," explained Ivo Beu, Head of Marine Business Americas for Voith.

To serve the popular tourist area, the ferry will be added to the fleet that transports 1,623,670 passengers and 751,656 vehicles per year between the islands of Ocracoke and Hatteras. These trips, made several times daily all year long, include careful maneuvering and docking procedures that are managed with the VSP's unified steering- and propulsion-control system. Further, unlike normal propeller systems, the VSP is noted for its operational reliability and low maintenance requirements.

Commissioned by NCDOT, the VSP propulsion systems were built and tested in Voith's York, Pennsylvania, facility to meet the unique specifications required for the island-hopping ferries. Likewise, their Pennsylvania assembly allows NCDOT to champion its use of an American workforce on the project.

"These are the first VSP units ever built in the U.S., and they are being used to extend the NCDOT fleet of ferries utilizing this innovative propulsion system," explained Beu. "This is an important step to fulfill manufacturing requirements for government entities and businesses that want to support American workers. Likewise, by producing the VSP in Pennsylvania our North American production team expands its marine production expertise and capabilities to better serve our regional customers."

After assembly of the VSP units was complete in November 2018, the propellers were delivered to Bollinger Shipyards in Louisiana for installation into the Rodanthe. In May 2019, the ferry will be delivered to the NCDOT Shipyard in Manns Harbor, North Carolina, and it is expected to go into service in the summer of 2019 on the Outer Banks.

To learn more about the capabilities of the VSP and its specialized control systems, visit <http://voith.com/corp-en/drives-transmissions/voith-schneider-propeller-vsp.html>.

About the Voith Group

The Voith Group is a global technology company. With its broad portfolio of systems, products, services and digital applications, Voith sets standards in the markets of energy, oil & gas, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive. Founded in 1867, the company today has more than 19,000 employees, sales of \$5 billion and locations in over 60 countries worldwide and is thus one of the largest family-owned companies in Europe. For more information, visit www.voith.com.

The Group Division Voith Turbo is part of the Voith Group and a specialist for intelligent drive technology, systems as well as tailor-made services. With its innovative and smart products, Voith offers highest efficiency and reliability. Customers from highly diverse industries such as oil and gas, energy, mining and mechanical engineering, ship technology.

Contact Information:

Sheryl Zapcic
Director, Corporate and Market Communications, North America
717-792-7247
Sheryl.Zapcic@Voith.com

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