



SHIPBUILDER'S PREFERENCE FOR 'proven' 50-litre Cummins

Vitawani Shipbuilding, one of 43 shipbuilders in Sibuluan, has a strong allegiance to the Cummins brand.

Competition is obviously fierce among the shipbuilders – main family companies – as they vie for business in a market that has been severely impacted by low oil prices in recent years and the effect of these prices on the oil and gas industry.

Established as a shipbuilder in 2007, Vitawani's focus is on four segments – landing craft, multi-purpose ASD (azimuth stern drive) tugs, maintenance/work vessels, and offshore support vessels – and all have Cummins engines as standard for propulsion.

More specifically, the propulsion offering is Cummins' legendary 50-litre V16, the mechanically injected KTA50 – a benchmark for reliability and durability in a number of applications including mining, marine and power generation.

The KTA50 is an engine that "doesn't have problems", says Vitawani director Ling Tiu Khing. "It's the best engine in the 1600 to 1800 hp range... it's a stable, proven product that's easy to maintain and is competitively priced.

"We don't have complaints from clients about the KTA50."

Cummins support 'very good'.

Another reason for Vitawani's preference for the Cummins brand is the support from the Cummins Sales and Service branch in Sibuluan. "All aspects of Cummins' support are very good," confirms Ling Tiu Khing.

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Top: Multi-purpose ASD (azimuth stern drive) tugs powered by the Cummins KTA50 are a strong Vitawani focus.



The latest vessel to be launched by Vitawani with Cummins KTA50 power is a 66.6-metre workboat with a 20-metre beam, its dual V16 Cummins engines rated at 1600 hp. Designed for hook-up and commissioning as well as platform maintenance, the vessel has a bow thruster driven by a 640 hp Cummins K19 and is also equipped with four Cummins marine generator sets – three KTA19 units each rated at 335 kW and one emergency genset, a 6CTA8.3.

“This is the first vessel of this type we have built and it has accommodation for 100 people. We did our market research and decided to give it a go. The vessel is available for charter from Vitawani or for sale,” says Ling Tiu Khing. At the time of our visit to the shipyard, the vessel was being chartered. “The enquiry for charter is quite positive,” he adds.

Another vessel Vitawani virtually has ready for launch is an 80-metre landing craft with dual 1600 hp Cummins KTA50 engines, a bow thruster powered by a 350 hp Cummins QSM11, and four Cummins gensets. ■

Clockwise from top: 80-metre landing craft with dual 1600 hp Cummins KTA50 engines, a bow thruster powered by a Cummins QSM11, and four Cummins gensets.

Vitawani director Ling Tiu Khing (left) with Malcolm Wong from Cummins Sales & Service at Sibü.

Workboat with dual Cummins KTA50 engines is designed for hook-up and commissioning as well as platform maintenance.

