Arctic Passion News
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Dear Reader,

Pandemic has hit the cruise and shipbuilding industry hard, but many new exploration cruise ships have still been under construction during this difficult time. The industry is now slowly reactivating, and it will be interesting to see how it evolves in the coming years.

One of these new exploration
cruise ships is particularly unique. The famous cruise operator Ponant has taken delivery of the world's first icebreaking cruise vessel. Recently, this vessel made a historical test voyage to the North Pole. The voyage demonstrated the operational and technical capability that can be achieved today. We could actually say that the top has been reached.

Although other icebreakers have, of course, sailed to the pole earlier, Ponant's *Le Commandant Charcot* is the first commercial vessel to do so. She opens up a completely new era in exploration cruises to the Arctic. All parties involved in the ship's realization, from its design, building and operation, can be proud.

The Arctic region is a sensitive area
with a fragile nature, and must be respected accordingly. Thanks to continual technical development, lessening the environmental impact can be achieved. This is, of course, beneficial and necessary for the Arctic, Antarctic and all other oceans, as well as the climate in general.

Indeed, it presents a considerable technical challenge for all maritime players. We have learned more about new fuels and minimising emissions while finding optimal solutions for the icebreaking ships we design.

An important decision
regarding polar icebreakers was recently made in Canada. The Government of Canada announced that the long-awaited construction of the Canadian Coast Guard's new polar icebreaker will begin. Surprisingly, the announcement stated that two such icebreakers are to be built by two different Canadian shipyards. Earlier, the design for the polar icebreaker was created by STX Canada Marine supported by Aker Arctic.

Sincerely yours,

Reko-Antti Suojanen
Managing Director

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