mjr Power & Automation

CASE STUDY: Power & Automation

Electrical Upgrade of the World's Last Seagoing Paddle Steamer

The PS Waverley stands as a living piece of maritime history. Today, it is the world's last seagoing passenger paddle steamer still in operation.

Waverley originally operated solely on the Firth of Clyde, Scotland, providing regular passenger services until the vessel was withdrawn from service in 1973. The vessel was purchased for £1 the by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society and re-entered service in 1975. Since then, PS Waverley has been operating seasonally on the Firth of Clyde and around the wider UK to provide daytime pleasure excursions. Since being sold, the Waverley has carried over 6 million passengers from over 60 ports around the UK.

For this project, MJR Power & Automation was contracted by ABB Marine & Ports to provide a complete overhaul of the power generation and electrical system of PS Waverley.

MJR Power & Automation

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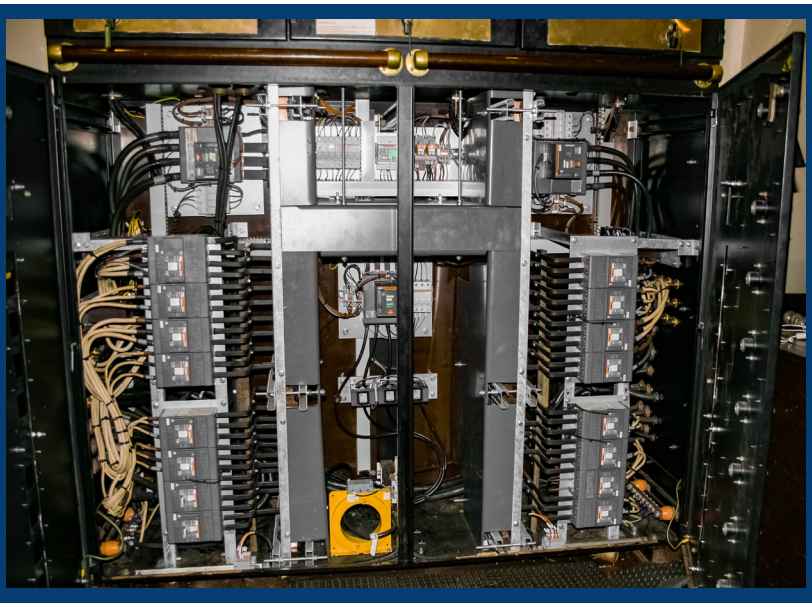
Scope of Work

- Upgraded the main switchboard, replacing all power and controls. A complex and technically challenging design was required to upgrade the electrical system to a modern AC switchboard, while retaining the exterior character of the vessel with its original dials and meters.
- Installation of a new power management system - this is interfaced to the main generators and the main switchboard to give automatic paralleling and load sharing via operator interface, ensuring efficiency.
- Installation of an emergency switchboard, with black out starting and auto-connect.
- Supervising the rewire of the boiler room. Due to the boilers being replaced a significant number of cables needed to be removed to create the space for the old boilers to be removed and the new boilers fitted.
- Addition of Harbour Generator - The existing shore supply was utilised for the harbour generator. This involved additional equipment and controls to the shore supply switchboard and adding a changeover switch so that the incomer can be used for either shore supply or harbour generator.



"This was a very unique project and required intricate design skills to develop a working solution that would integrate with existing panel space whilst also tracing all existing wiring to retain the vessels original features.

"Being so much more than just a marine electrical company, we have extensive experience in delivering such intricate and challenging projects and modernised the operations of the ship whilst successfully preserving its heritage. It is great to see this iconic vessel, bursting with history, set sail again."

Paul Cairns, Managing Director at MJR Power & Automation

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