

Thruster Experience – Seal Issues

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Abstract

Reliable sealing is very important in thruster operation, especially in offshore DP-thrusters where possibilities of maintenance are very limited.

This paper is aimed to give an overall picture of recent seal issues related to azimuth thrusters. A short introduction to different technologies will be given, focus being on DP-units (for example UUC-type thruster). Problems that have occurred will be described together with improvements and solutions.

Finally, a table containing information to seal supplier will be presented. This table has been made using the experience in various parts of marine business and direct feedback from major seal suppliers.

The focus of this presentation is on propeller shaft seals, although several more seals exist in azimuth thrusters. This is due to the criticality of propeller shaft sealing for the reliable and efficient operation of a thruster unit.

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