SILLETTE MARINE TRANSMISSIONS POWER THE QUEEN'S ROW BARGE "GLORIANA"

Royal Row Barge "GLORIANA"

Originally intended as an auxiliary system to assist the 18 rowers and for manoeuvring "Gloriana", the leading vessel of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee water pageant on the River Thames in London, the two Sillette-Sonic MK2 Sonic Elect saildrives are mounted in a V configuration towards the stern of the craft.

The units form the means of transmitting electrical power to the propellers in the most efficient way. Gun metal bronze was chosen as the most durable material and the transmission is via a toothed belt system and a pair of spiral bevel gears, a proven and well established system from Sillette Marine Propulsion of Surrey UK.

After trials on the Thames it soon became clear that these transmission units were capable of propelling the 92 ft "Gloriana", displacing 12 tons at speeds of up to 8 knots, exceeding initial expectations of 5 – 6 knots. They also provide a stopping distance averaging 1 ½ boat lengths from 6 knots, quite remarkable given the size and windage of the vessel and all this with only 14 Kw/ 19 HP of available power.

Cont.

Sillette first designed and manufactured the Sonic Electric saildrive propulsion system at the end of the 1990's, when electric propulsion for leisure craft was in its infancy, or almost unheard of. Determined that this was going to be the direction for the future, Sillette maintained it's presence in this sector of the market, supplying units for many types of craft, ranging form competition sail boats, sailing monohulls, catamarans and small passenger vessels in both European and American markets.

Sillette also provided its larger version of this electric saildrive for the French circumnavigation trimaran "Solar Odyssey".

May 2012