



Minister-President Manuela Schwesig visits AIDA Cruises

July 30, 2019

Manuela Schwesig, Minister-President of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania visited AIDA Cruises employees in Rostock on Monday, July 29, 2019.

As part of her summer tour this year, she met with AIDA President Felix Eichhorn and other executives to discuss the economic importance of AIDA Cruises for Rostock and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, and how the cruise line is responding to current and future societal challenges.

AIDA President Felix Eichhorn said, "For over 20 years, AIDA has been a driving force, not only for shipbuilding in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania but also for tourism and the maritime economy. Each passenger changeover of an AIDA ship in Rostock-Warnemünde brings the region's economy around one million euros. We work with hundreds of SMEs in the state and provide secure jobs. The engine room unit for AIDAnova, the first cruise ship that can be fully powered with low-emission liquefied natural gas (LNG), was built at the Neptun Werft shipyard; the engines were built at Caterpillar. By 2023, two more of these innovative ships will follow for AIDA alone."

Minister-President Manuela Schwesig spoke before around 250 AIDA Cruises employees: "AIDA is not only the largest private employer in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The cruise line also relies on technology and know-how from our state. I'm pleased that AIDA is an example for uniting economic success and sustainability."

This was her second visit at AIDA Cruises in Rostock. In September 2018, around 280 managers welcomed the Minister-President for the AIDA Management Days. The occasion was the signing of a declaration of intent between the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the Hanseatic and University City of Rostock, and ROSTOCK PORT to jointly promote environmentally friendly and sustainable cruises. The agreement aims at building a shoreside power supply system for cruise ships at Rostock Port, as in Hamburg and Kiel, by 2020. AIDA Cruises is ready to start test operations with its ships next year.

By the end of 2020, all AIDA ships built starting in 2000 (twelve ships) will be equipped for shoreside power. Already in 2023, ninety-four percent of all AIDA guests will sail on ships that can be fully powered with low-emission liquefied natural gas or green shoreside power.