

Dockwalk
jan. 2009

YARD NEWS **AN ETHEREAL PERFORMANCE**

With the environment at the top of everyone's agenda, Royal Huisman's latest launch, the 58-meter sailing yacht *Ethereal*, is all about saving energy without compromising performance. With its lithium ion energy system enabling it to have full operation under battery power – from hoisting sails and raising the anchor – the Pieter Beeldsnijder-designed *Ethereal* is designed to use its hybrid setup to be as efficient and effective as possible. The state-of-the-art system can run in a number of different correlations depending on the needs of those on board. In hybrid drive, the 400kWh batteries take over, allowing the yacht to run in full “stealth” mode. *Ethereal* can make way silently at a steady 10 knots not only using the batteries for propulsion, but also air conditioning, refrigeration and general lighting.

This yacht has been designed with energy preservation in mind throughout. From the SLCE watermaker that reuses the still-pressurized discharge water to pre-pressurize the incoming water – saving about four kilowatts of energy – to the use of low-voltage, low-heat LCD lighting. Special glass is used throughout the living space in addition to full insulation, meaning that all the energy requirements, including air conditioning, can be met with just 90kW generators compared to the 140kW that might be expected on a boat this size.

Not only have *Ethereal's* designers used up-to-the-minute technology to ensure that she's carrying less weight, making less noise and using less energy than her contemporaries, but she's built to stay that way. Owners Bill and Shannon Joy have insisted *Ethereal* be built with a retrofit in mind and they are already planning a retrofit to a fuel cell power system. www.royalhuisman.com – LOUISA COWAN



HANS WESTERINK

S/Y *Ethereal*