

## MAN Diesel continues 'green' research

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Although engine manufacturers are facing cutbacks in orders as owners cancel or postpone newbuilds, there is no let-up in research by engine manufacturers. There are strong financial rewards to be had by engineering companies that have solutions tested, approved and proven when new environmental protection rules comes into force.

MAN Diesel, despite facing a 20% cut in its orderbook as the newbuild cancellations bite, has said it will continue investing over 5% of revenues into research and development programmes, while a number of shipowners, such as AP Moller Maersk, have also pledged to continue their research work.

The Danish company has its own technology development department and, despite the economic woes in some of its shipping sectors, work is still going ahead, although some newer projects are now looking at more immediate payback times, according to Bo Cerup-Simonsen, the shipowner's vice-president, engineering and projects.

"Long term we are thinking really radical. We have projects we want to talk about as soon as possible, but there are confidentiality and IP issues that need to be sorted as they are done in partnership with other companies and organisations," he said, explaining that there needs to be a close relationship between owners and developers.