



**Above :** The first of the new hydrofoils, HF 01, at Air Naval about to being shipped to Ustica Lines in Trapani / EUSTACHIO PATALANO photo

**WE SAID IT** in February 2002 and we have reason to say it again, indeed with great pleasure, more than eleven years later:

No, the hydrofoil is not dead!

Yes, at least one new hydrofoil is currently under construction in Italy.

However, contrary to what we are used to, this time not at the classic hydrofoil shipyard of Rodriguez in Messina but in another yard, also in Sicily.

Long-time operator of Rodriguez hydrofoils Ustica Lines is presently fitting out the first of two new hydrofoils at its facility in Trapani, Cantiere Navale Unitá Veloci. Construction of the vessels is carried out by Air Naval in Napoli which, among other things, has already delivered five monohulls to the Sicilian based fast ferry operator.

The first of the new hydrofoils, HF 01, or *Super Admiral*, bears a strong resemblance to the Rodriguez Foilmaster, of which the company has five units, and, perhaps not

surprisingly, certain family trait with the operator's monohulls built by Air Naval. If you put your mind to it, in parts you may also see a touch of the stylish Seaflyght H.57 and L.90 designs of 40+ years ago, although these of course were smaller.

Details of the two new designs have yet to be received and will be reported on in due course, but apparently HF 01 will carry 240 passengers at a service speed of around 36 knots. It is believed that Italian Isotta Fraschini engines will be fitted. Reportedly, the hydrofoil is expected to be completed in November.

Last a new hydrofoil emerged from Rodriguez was in 2008. This, *Hydrofoil 1*, however is a prototype and it is doubtful whether it will see any commercial use. For a full report, see the December 2012 *CLASSIC FAST FERRIES*.

The last Foilmaster built to date entered service with Ustica Lines in 2007. **cff**

**Below :** Impression of the new Air Naval HF 01 hydrofoil / USTICA LINES

