



ITALY'S NEW HYDROFOIL IS HERE

THE FIRST NEW HYDROFOIL in seven years for Italian fast ferry operator Ustica Lines was recently rolled out and named *Carlo Morace*. As is to be expected with any new design, it would appear some delay to the initial schedule has been experienced. It has yet to be confirmed when and on which route the new vessel will enter service.

The basic structure was built by Air Naval in Napoli and then taken to Ustica Lines' new shipyard facility, Cantiere Navale Unitá Veloci, at Trapani in north-western Sicily for completion. Referred to as the Super Admiral, it should be evident to anyone that the new hydrofoil bears a strong resemblance to the Foilmaster, developed and built by

Rodriquez Cantieri Navali in Messina, of which Ustica Lines currently operates five. A sixth unit was written off after an accident in 2008.

A total of 13 Foilmasters have been delivered by Rodriquez to date. With the decision by Ustica Lines to start its own hydrofoil production, the future of the Foilmaster looks bleak, at least as far as any new orders placed by this operator is concerned. The only other operator of Foilmaster hydrofoils is Siremar, also in Italy, which has seven of this type.

Details of the new *Carlo Morace* will follow as soon as we have them. **cff**

Above + Right :

The first hydrofoil built at the Ustica Lines shipyard at Trapani has been named Carlo Morace / USTICA LINES photo

