

Superyacht Refinish

Complete Recoating For Italian Masterpiece

Queensland based Superyacht Solutions [SySol] was selected to refinish the spectacular Asian-based 47m Italian built superyacht, Aquamarina.

When the superyacht's European management team Yachting Partners International, based in Monaco, engaged the services of Rivergate Marina and Shipyard in Brisbane to manage the major refit of their masterpiece, a cornerstone of this refit was the complete recoating of the vessel.

The colour used was an Imron® Marine Basecoat and DuPont DP6940 Super Flow HS Clear - in state of the art , metallic and pearlescent paint, which was manufactured by DuPont Performance Coatings in Europe and imported into Australia specifically for this project.

In addition to being the largest yacht painting contractor in Australia, Superyacht Solutions are considered champions of large scale metallic and pearlescent applications throughout the world. For many years their technicians have been called upon to complete some very complex applications in Europe, Asia and North America as well as in Australia."

Without a doubt, this was the most complicated, high tech metallic and pearlescent superyacht refinish ever undertaken in Australia," confirms Andrew Cannon from Rivergate Marina and Shipyard.

Their workshop's 70m state-of-the-art paint shed had plenty of room to accommodate the sizeable superyacht, while the technical aspects of the project included the use of sophisticated digital instrumentation such as BYK Wavescan to measure appearance properties after every application.

SySol were awarded the job after a lengthy evaluation process, as the vessel's management team spent more than a year weighing their options and negotiating with various parties. Having inspected a 50m, metallic gold new-build motoryacht, DB-9, finished in Imron® Marine Basecoat by Superyacht Solutions in Southampton, England - and also sighting a 30m Australian new-build catamaran, Hair Raza, finished by SySol in Centari® 6000 metallic silver and white pearl - Aquamarina was finally entrusted to SySol.

A very tight 20-week program then commenced, involving the complete disassembly of the vessel's exterior, refairing of her hullsides, a complete

exterior refinish and reassembly. The project was subject to very onerous financial penalties in the event of late completion and the finish was subject to requirements in regard to gloss level, distinctness of image, tension, orange peel, mottle and colour consistency, considerably in excess of auto industry norms.

Fortunately, the work was delivered "ahead of schedule, on budget and in excess of the required standards of finish", says Steve Wicks, director of SySol.

"DPC's engagement with this project was key to its ultimate success,"

Although Steve was delegate for Standards Australia's ISO Working Group, developing ISO 11347 (Measurement of the visual appearance of exterior coatings to large yachts), the specification imposed on Aquamarina's finish by its owner's management team was, in most respects, "significantly more stringent" than anything he had seen previously.

According to Steve, the project would have been vastly more difficult without DPC's materials, and impossible without their highly responsive logistic support.

"DPC's engagement with this project was the key to its ultimate success,"he says.

"We knew from past experience overseas that the Imron® Marine Basecoat is the standout performer for very large scale clear over base applications, but having completed negotiations only 48 hours before the scheduled

start date, the pressure was really on DPC to organise not only airfreight of very large quantities of product, but also to fast track regulatory approvals for a number of products that had yet to be introduced to the Australian market. Thankfully, it became apparent that the 'performance' in DuPont Performance Coatings doesn't relate only to the coatings!"

As always, the DPC materials performed flawlessly.

"The coating system is so well-tailored to large-scale applications and affords a degree of flexibility, and hence reliability in application, that we simply could not expect from any other COB system," Steve says.



ANZ Technical Specialist
Bill Gray

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- 1. The Aquamarina soon after completion
- 2. An aerial view
- 3. Up close to the project