

INSIGHT



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Italian Sea Group President Giovanni Costantino stands before a GRP hull at Admiral Tecnomar's current Massa, Italy, facility (main); at the newly acquired NCA yard (top right), the group will construct new hulls and refits; Admiral Tecnomar's Nadara 40m (bottom right).

YARD ACQUISITION EXPANDS ITALIAN BUILDER'S CAPABILITIES

Italian builder Admiral Tecnomar appears to be going from strength to strength. On top of a current nine yachts under contract and in build, the group has finalized the purchase of the Nuovi Cantieri Apuania (NCA) yard in Carrara, Italy, and is in the process of revamping those facilities to create a boatbuilding and refit hub of considerable scope.

Admiral Tecnomar and NCA together have formed the Italian Sea Group, the Tyrrhenian Sea's largest shipbuilding group after Fincantieri. Admiral

Tecnomar will continue to focus on the construction of luxury motor and sailing yachts, while NCA's focus will be on highly technical shipbuilding, engineering and refit of both yachts and ships.

The yard covers an area of 24.7 acres (compared to Admiral Tecnomar's current 4.9-acre facility) including a 820-foot dry dock, several large sheds and gantry cranes capable of lifting 1,000 metric tons. The Italian Sea Group employs more than 200 people (55 in Admiral Tecnomar and 146 in NCA)

and boasts a wealth of technical skills and knowledge drawn from the workforces' experience.

"I'd been thinking over a move like this for some time," says Giovanni Costantino, president of the Italian Sea Group. "We really needed more space and an outlet to the sea.

"Refit is a promising business," he adds, "and a sector in great expansion. We believe that our strategic position in the heart of the Mediterranean could present a critical success factor."

While the yard is slowly moving existing yacht projects to the new facilities, the development of refit business should prove particularly interesting, given the expansive facilities available. There is also a plan to invest €10 million using the NCA marina basin for the construction of the nine yachts already on the builder's order book. The group will remain open to the military sector, ensuring a flow of diverse activities.

The NCA production site will be given a thorough makeover. "Our initial plans involve building a sinkable barge, which we feel is necessary to handle new superyacht construction and refit of superyachts up to ninety meters," says Costantino. "After the site has been cleaned up, the old sheds demolished and the best of what remains has been restored, we will build new structures suitable for superyacht construction and for being up to welcome high-level clients."

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