

Shipping

Century-old ferry relaunched as Finland's first all-electric passenger vessel



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Finland's century-old Föri ferry has been renovated to run entirely on electricity

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Finland's historic Föri ferry has been transformed to run entirely on electricity in order to reduce costs, emissions and noise

Finland's oldest operating ferry made a splash with commuters this weekend. The distinctive orange Föri boat - named after the Swedish word for ferry, färja - first entered service in 1904 in the southwestern city of Turku as a steam-powered vessel, before it was later adapted to run on diesel fuel.

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However, this weekend the historic vessel was relaunched having been fitted with a new zero-emission electric drivetrain provided by Finnish manufacturer Visedo. The vessel will now take commuters across the Aura River from Turku to Åbo and back.

Tuku city council commissioned local boatyard Mobimar to complete the upgrade, with Föri drydocked in March in order to remove its diesel-powered hydraulic motor and the old control system.

A new system has now been fitted which is eight tonnes lighter, consisting of two Visedo permanent magnet motor drives, and two Visedo DC/DC converters that control the ferry's DC grid.

According to Visedo, the new system enables the boat to draw power from batteries that are charged overnight, while the vessel is also capable of operating on just one of the two motors in order to allow maintenance to take place without interrupting operation.

It follows Visedo's revamp of Taiwan's 'Ferry Happiness' [earlier this year](#), which saw the Cijan Island passenger vessel become Asia's first ever hybrid electric ferry.

Visedo project engineer, Heikki Sallinen, said the newly-upgraded ferries showed the "revolution to electrify the world's diesel transport is already underway".

"The Föri ferry is a national treasure but with its old diesel engine, fuel consumption and emissions were high and overall efficiency poor," said Sallinen. "Visedo power brings the 100-year-old vessel into the 21st century without changing its character and delivers zero-emission transport for Turku."



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