

ANCHORAGE AND MARINE PROPULSION

WITH THE ACQUISITION OF PROGETTO ELICA, MZ ELECTRONIC HAS FURTHER ENRICHED ITS PRODUCT PORTFOLIO, OFFERING CUSTOMIZED PROPELLERS (BOTH SUBMERGED AND SURFACE), AS WELL AS SHAFT LINES AND RUDDERS FOR BOATS UP TO 150 FEET

Gianandrea Mazzola

With the specific aim of providing an increasingly wide and diversified service and product portfolio, MZ Electronic finalized the acquisition of the company Progetto Elica at the beginning of last year. Already the distributor of Craftsman Marine manoeuvring thruster and of the Yacht

Controller brand in Italy, the company from Monza (MB) has thus reached a new milestone of its growth, further strengthening its market position in the field of marine propulsion. "Progetto Elica was born from the experience of SBM, a historic Italian propeller manufacturer founded in 1963" MZ Electronic's Sales Manager for Italy Vittorio Roncato explains. "When joining our group, it brought about a deep specialization in the calculation, design, and production of custom propellers based on individual boat specifications, as well as replicas of existing propellers, in both cases submerged and surface. In addition to the production of propellers, there are also shaft

lines and rudders, for boats up to 150 feet or up to 45 m in length, both for pleasure and work".

IF THE WHOLE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IS IN-HOUSE

The recently acquired company employs personnel whose significant experience and recognized professionalism in the field of marine propulsion allow to meet all kinds of needs. "The propellers are made thanks to the winning combination of cutting-edge technologies, advanced design based on CAD-CAE-CAM systems, and great expertise and manual skills required to finish the operators' products", Roncato continues.

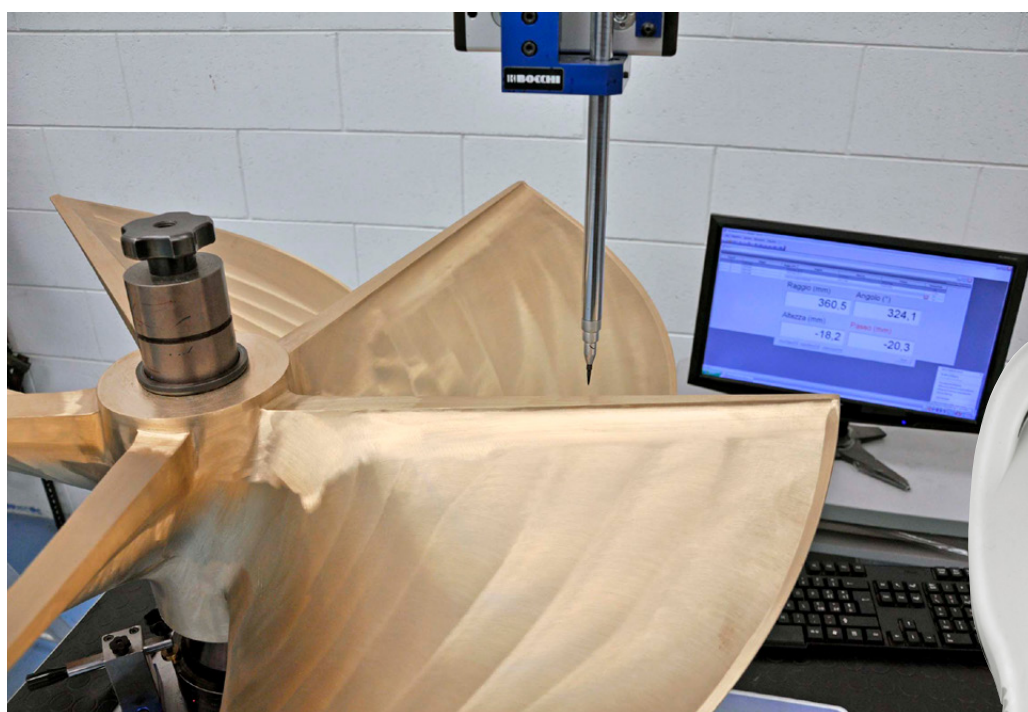
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Vittorio Roncato,
MZ Electronic
Sales Manager
for Italy



Progetto Elica also designs and manufactures complete shaft lines



Thanks to Progetto Elica, today MZ Electronic is able to manufacture also submerged and surface propellers with blades ranging from 3 to 6 and whose diameters reach up to 1.500 mm, in different materials. MZ Electronic now performs the whole development process and controls every step, to offer high quality products

Thanks to Progetto Elica, MZ Electronic is able to perform the whole development process and control every step, in order to offer high quality products with optimal performance, perfectly aligned and responding to the characteristics of the specific boat for which they are made. These prerogatives," Roncato points out, "allow us to serve and satisfy both the needs of shipyards that produce in series, as well as those of private ship-owners, owning not only pleasure boats but also commercial ones, who can have custom-made propellers designed or existing propellers replicated. The replication of propellers (but also of all other components)

can be done even without drawings, because the production facility of Progetto Elica also accommodates a performing 3D scanner, thanks to which it is possible to perform accurate reverse engineering activities".

PROPELLERS, SHAFT LINES, AND RUDDERS

More in detail, Progetto Elica allows to create immersed and surface propellers, with blades ranging from a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 6 and whose diameter may even reach 1,500 mm; they come in different



Designed to control also the bow and stern thruster (if any), the radio chain counter WHC040 by MZ Electronic allows control of the anchor windlass via a radio hand control, and provides the measure of the dropped chain

THE COMPANY IN A NUTSHELL

Founded in Monza (MB) in 1993 as an enterprise active in the design and production of electrical and mechanical accessories for the nautical field, MZ Electronic has always had a strong vocation for the research and development of new high technology products. In 2008 it started a collaboration with ORVEA (a company specialized in the design and production of propellers and anchor windlasses) which would become increasingly stronger over the years, in line with the growing market demand for products designed for larger boats. In 2011 this led MZ Electronic to acquire the brand and ORVEA, taking over the designs, warehouse facilities, moulds and know-how and starting the Italwinch by ORVEA project, which immediately began production of an initial portfolio of winches totally made in Italy, for boats up to 35 m in length. This acquisition was followed in 2017 by that of ONN - Officina Navale Nanni in Viareggio (Province of Lucca), a world-renowned nautical centre whose clients include some of the biggest names in Italian shipbuilding. Founded in 1950, ONN has always focused on the construction of anchor windlasses, customized according to the requests of designers, thus creating a strong collaboration with the local shipbuilding industry. In addition to the supply of all kinds of custom-made stainless steel components, the company produces chain blocks, davits, mooring stations and capstans. At the beginning of last year, MZ Electronic also acquired Progetto Elica, which stemmed from the experience of SBM, a historic Italian propeller company founded in 1963. Today, this partnership enables the supply of an even more complete marine propulsion product portfolio, including propellers (surface or submerged), shaft lines and rudders for boats up to 150 feet.



materials such as bronze-aluminium and brass-manganese alloys, or stainless steel. "Once the propellers' design and related calculations have been completed" Roncato says, "we proceed with the creation of the model through 3D printing to be sent to the foundry. After the casting and material checks, we move on to the mechanical processing and craft finishing stages. At this point, the propeller is measured via a computerized propeller pitch calculator, in order to check

proper compliance with the project tolerances; this stage is followed by the realization of the spline or toothing, up to the final certified dynamic balancing".

As already pointed out, Progetto Elica also designs and manufactures complete shaft lines, assisting the relevant construction site in determining the specifications. In addition, it also produces rudders (made of bronze or steel and with connecting bar), propeller shafts, shaft-handle coupling flanges, brass



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shaft supports, water-lubricated bushings and mechanical seals.

RADIO CHAIN COUNTER AND THRUSTERS

MZ Electronic is characterized by a continuous and constant growth and by the desire to keep up with the times, designing innovative products and improving them continuously, to meet the demanding needs of the market. "Also for the current year - Roncato

underlines - we have many news concerning our products in store. For example, the release of a new range of control panels, which are more ergonomic and technologically advanced than their predecessors, or the MZ-LINK, a device that allows MZ Electronic products to be integrated with navigation products. In other words, this device allows to control winches, chain counters and thrusters on the main chart plotters available on the market."

The new version of the radio-chain counter WHC040 stands out among the new range of control panels: it is an innovative and performing device, which allows control of the anchor windlass by means of a radio control panel that also provides the measure of the dropped chain. This new version was designed so as to allow control of the bow and stern thruster (if any) and has an IP67 protection degree; in addition, it makes the display information available in 5 languages and has an automatic descent function ascent alarm, keypad lock (to prevent accidental operation) and a chain speed display..

"In this new version of the WHC040, a function which is definitely worthy of note - Roncato concludes - is undoubtedly the wireless charging station: a simple mat where you can easily place the device without having to worry about any additional USB plugs, as it was necessary before. Another important characteristic is the revised design, with significantly improved grip ergonomics making the use of this radio chain counter even more immediate and functional".