

A global actor in repair, maintenance and conversion... GEMAK GROUP

A big group of companies comprising three shipyards and one steel processing plant... An experience of 50 years, over 3 thousand repair projects, the first accredited R&D center for shipyards in Turkey certified by the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology, such mega industrial projects as the 3rd Bosphorus Bridge... These are just a few of the sentences that describe how powerful Gemak Group is in the shipbuilding sector. For the others, let's turn our eyes to Gemak Group Marketing Regional Manager Burak Çağlar Karsak...



Burak Çağlar Karsak

With Gemak Tuzla Shipyard, Gemak TGE Shipyard, Gemak Altınova Shipyard and Neta Steel & Pipe Production plant under its roof, Gemak Group is among the leading companies in the shipbuilding sector in Turkey and its surroundings. Particularly equipped with important capabilities in the field of repair and

maintenance, the Group captured significant success in 2021 by actively using 90% of its total capacity. Having accomplished more than 3 thousand repair and maintenance projects so far, the company taking quick steps towards being the most preferred group in and around the Mediterranean with its 50 years of experience. Gemak

Group Marketing Regional Manager Burak Çağlar Karsak told us about the remarkable aspects of this journey.

Gemak Group comprises three shipyards. What is the organizational structure of the company?

Gemak Group consists of Gemak Tuzla Shipyard, Gemak TGE Shipyard, Neta Steel & Pipe Fabrication and Gemak Altınova Shipyard, three shipyards and one factory (land facility) in total. Shipbuilding and ship repair activities are our traditional markets but we have proven new challenges that are implemented by us expanding our business to industrial quality steel fabrication activities. In short, we have two separate divisions as repairs and industrial works which are controlled by separate management teams, labor force and in different facilities.

Can you tell about your lines of business?

Gemak has the vision to be the best in class and the preferred partner on worldwide basis for demanding projects on marine vessels repair, maintenance, marine conversion projects, steel fabrication industry, marine and offshore vessel building.

Now let's have a look at each of the shipyards... Starting with Gemak Tuzla Shipyard, what can you say about the infrastructure and facilities of this plant?

Gemak Tuzla Shipyard is centrally located in Tuzla bay region between Europe and Asia with around 1.000 employees. The Shipyard is founded on a total area of 45.000 sqm, which consists of 16.000 sqm of closed and 29.000 sqm of open facilities. There are 2 floating docks, 1 floating crane with 100 tons lifting capacity, various land/dock cranes with lifting capacity up to 50 tons, and machining, mechanic, pipe, sheet metal, electrical etc.

workshops within Gemak Tuzla Shipyard.

Can you also tell us a bit about the Tuzla Vessel facilities in Tuzla?

Gemak TGE shipyard is founded in 2000, on a total area of 87.000 sqm. The facilities are contained within 11.000 sqm of closed area and 76.000 sqm of open area. TGE Shipyard has the world class skills required to construct and repair a variety of vessel types. Gemak TGE operates the biggest graving dock (300 x 53 m) in commercial ship repair operation in the region and the longest wet berths in Tuzla. There are a total of 42 cranes (portal and jib cranes), the biggest lifting capacity of which is 570 tons (portal graving dock cranes working in tandem). For shipbuilding activities TGE operates semi slipway (200x44 m) served by a portal crane of SWL 300 tons, panel line and open and closed assembly areas.

You also have a shipyard in Yalova-Altınova, how about the facilities there?

Gemak Altınova Shipyard was acquired by Gemak Group in 2012. Construction of the new yard started in 2013, after the award of the contract for fabrication of steel decks for the 3rd Bosphorus Bridge to Gemak Group. Gemak Altınova Shipyard has already reached steel fabrication and painting capacity for large steel structures. The Shipyard will continue to play an increasing role in the construction of off-shore platforms, floating docks, bridges, large sections of ships and repair/conversion of all kinds of vessels. The Shipyard is founded on a total area of 141.437 sqm, which consists of 20.437 sqm of closed facilities including 68x28x12 m painting hall & 67x30x20 m blasting hall and is equipped with SPMT Units with a total lifting capacity of 1.440 tons.

You have been mainly focused on repair and



maintenance projects, what is the reason of this preference?

With 50 years of experience in engineering solutions, Gemak is proud of being in service to over 3.000 repair projects. The Group continues to provide services for dry docking & ship repair in order to maintain the sustainability of the company's bone structure due to fluctuations in the new building and offshore sectors.

Turkey is one of the most important repair and maintenance hubs in Europe. What do you think are the reasons of this?

Why would a European ship owner prefer Turkey?

We are committed to be client focused, highly reliable, effective, and competitive. This point of view enables the Turkish yards to provide a favorable cost & quality balance for the owners. We also provide a safe work environment. Yards are centrally located between Europe and Asia and create an ecosystem that welcomes

our clients, assisting them in every demand with excellent maritime infrastructure, easily accessible via international deep-sea ports in the Mediterranean Basin. We are the pioneer of the shipbuilding, ship repair and conversion industry in the region.

What percent of your total capacity is in use in all three shipyards? For instance, how was 2021 in that respect and how is the course of things in 2022?

2021 was a challenging year in terms of availability and the same trend continues to increase in 2022. The average capacity usage in 2021 was around 90%. The total number of vessels and especially the amount of BWTS retrofit projects significantly increased. There were 35 pcs of BWTS retrofit projects completed in 2020 and another 51 pcs completed in 2021, we foresee that the quantity will be much more in 2022. In total 43 pcs of scrubber retrofit projects were completed by



the 1st quarter of 2022 which is the highest score within the Mediterranean territory.

Besides shipbuilding, you also produce for the industrial sectors, can you tell about these activities?

50 years of vast experience in various fields related mainly to shipping industry has positioned Gemak Group as a major player in the region for large scale steel construction projects. Having a course to the industrial market at 2013,

the same year the Group won a prestigious contract for the fabrication of steel decks for the 3rd Bosphorus Bridge, named Yavuz Sultan Selim. The valuable experience gained during the 3rd Bosphorus Bridge deck fabrication project in the industrial market encourages the Gemak Group to complete similar large scale industrial projects. By having a new course towards industrial projects, Gemak Group has been implementing related standards into applicable execution practices. Qualifications in the areas within its focus have been obtained and maintained. Gemak is now in possession of certificates for Execution of Steel and Aluminium Structures, Manufacturing of Pressure Vessels and Tubulars Fabrication and Assembly.

You place a special emphasis of innovative projects and you even have an R&D center. We would also talk about this R&D center; how many people are employed there and what activities are performed?

Innovation capability is the most important factor specifying the competitiveness of the group. The basis of the activities comprises solutions and services that focus on meeting present and future needs of the customers. For

this purpose, in June 2016, Gemak brought Turkey's first R&D Center that is approved by the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of the Turkish shipyard sector. There are in total 35 personnel, 4 of them have Master's degrees and 21 are Bachelors of Science. The scope of works consist of structural analysis, customized and specific engineering solutions for projects, customized equipment design and engineering of all heavy lift operations. Some of the unique designs manufactured by R&D Center are; Skidding System, Hydraulic Positioner, Dry-dock Towing System, Dry-dock Hatch etc.

What are the future plans of Gemak Group of Companies? What have you been doing about new investments, various fields of activity, targeted markets, etc.?

We aim to be the most successful and most preferred group in the Mediterranean and its surrounding geography, which provides services in the areas of vessel repair, maintenance, specific steel structures, shipbuilding and off-shore units construction while keeping its engineering capabilities at the forefront. Meanwhile we keep our hard study in order to increase the Yard's capacity and boost the service standards.

