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ms Bürgenstock - High Speed to its Namesake

Mario Gavazzi



ABOVE: Historic meeting with 'ms Titlis' on the inaugural trip of the new catamaran.

LEFT: 'ms Bürgenstock' calls at Kehsiten on the 24th May inauguration trip.

All Photos: Mario Gavazzi



Following the 2017 completion of the CHF1billion refurbishment of the hotels and associated developments at the Bürgenstock Resort high on the cliffs above the southern shore of the Vierwaldstättersee, the final piece of the jigsaw was the introduction of a fast ship-link to Luzern. Many residential guests and day visitors will arrive in their own cars, and a few will take the Zentralbahn to Stansstad and the connecting PostAuto. Historically this resort area used to welcome a majority of its visitors as they arrived by ship at Kehsiten Pier on the lake and then rode up the linking funicular. The funicular has been completely modernised as a part of the development, although the cars have retained their historic appearance. The new operators of the facilities on the Bürgenstock wished to continue this tradition and as a part of their development placed an order with Shiptec AG



LEFT: ms Bürgenstock speeds from Kehsiten on the inauguration trip.

RIGHT: ms Bürgenstock is operated using modern navigation systems.



at Luzern for the construction of a new high-speed catamaran to form the essential element of the dedicated link. Between the re-opening of the resort and the delivery of the new vessel, the shipping operator (SGV) organised a direct voyage from Luzern at 90-minute intervals operated by the 'ms Titlis', whilst other scheduled services also called at Kehsiten depending on the season.

The 26th May, at start of the of the SGV's summer timetable, saw the commencement of a 60-minute interval service made possible by the introduction of the ms Bürgenstock, that had been recently delivered from Shiptec's Luzern yard. On the 24th May a special inaugural trip had taken place to introduce the new ship. The CHF6m vessel is a 38m long catamaran with a beam of 10.4m, a capacity of 300 passengers and was designed by the Bremerhaven, Germany marine architects Judel/Vrollik. The new state-of-the-art ship can be run with only two operational crew members, plus service staff, whilst its hybrid powertrain can propel it at up to 35kph, allowing the trip between Luzern and Kehsiten to be completed in just 25 minutes. During the 50% of the trip, when it is at speed out in open water on the lake, the ship's low-emission diesel engines generate the power, whilst also recharging the batteries that then supply the ship's electric drive used in the restricted waters of Luzern Bay, and whilst manoeuvring. The catamaran operates the daily direct service between 07.15 and midnight with all the servicing and maintenance work being undertaken at night. 