

The originators of the building of the M/S Selandia

Rudolf Diesel

Inventor of the diesel engine. Born in Paris in 1858 to German parents. Diesel was educated at the Technical School of Augsburg and later completed a polytechnic degree in Munich. Very early, Rudolf Diesel had an interest in low combustion efficiency in steam engines which only utilise 10-15% of the injected fuel, and he therefore worked on an engine type to solve this problem. In 1892, Diesel was granted a patent on his new engine type. In the years to come, he made licence agreements on his internal combustion engine with several makers in the western world. However, Diesel never really made a financial success out of his great invention. Rudolf Diesel died mysteriously on a voyage in 1913.

H.N. Andersen

Honorary Councillor of State H.N. Andersen was the founder of Denmark's largest company at that time, The East Asiatic Company (EAC), and belonged to society's elite. H.N. Andersen came from modest beginnings and had worked his way up from a ship's boy to the owner of the largest company in Denmark. H.N. Andersen was a man of vision and long before everybody else, he could see the future of the diesel engine in the merchant navy. Furthermore, he was a major factor in B&W implementing motor ship production of the M/S SELANDIA. Within few years, EAC purely became a shipping company, and focused early on the diesel engine.

Ivar Knudsen

The father of the engine of the M/S Selandia and technical director at B&W from 1895. Ivar Knudsen was born in 1861 in a village near Ebeltøft called Følle. He was a skilled smith and later became a qualified engineer. 30 years old, working as an engineer for the City of Copenhagen, he was headhunted by B&W. Diesel described him as a person who really understood his ideas and as the best to implement them. After his study visit with Diesel in Germany, Ivar Knudsen advised B&W to enter into production of the new diesel engine. Ivar Knudsen is often described as a very enthusiastic man, who often gave vent to his feelings – which was not typical for the time. Ivar Knudsen died mysteriously during a journey to India.