

SW COLUMBUS

Ulstein SX124 — Cable Repair Conversion

Ex-seismic X-BOW hull → fibre-optic repair & maintenance vessel

A 2009-built Ulstein SX124 converted to a dedicated fibre-optic cable repair ship. Removing the seismic spread releases ≈ 900 t of lightweight and hands over spaces already shaped for cable work — ≈ 1,550 t of cable in a below-deck tank, with the complete fibre-optic mission spread supplied new.



89 m
LENGTH OVERALL

10,800 kW
INSTALLED POWER

1,550 t
CABLE CAPACITY

40 days
ENDURANCE

69
PERSONS ON BOARD

PRINCIPAL PARTICULARS

Design	Ulstein SX124 · X-BOW
Built	2009 · Barreras, Spain
Length overall	89 m
Length b.p.	82 m
Beam, moulded	19.0 m
Depth	8.0 m
Max draught	6.6 m
Lightship	≈ 3,760 t
Deadweight	≈ 3,780 t

CABLE CAPACITY — CONVERTED

Cable tank, below deck	≈ 1,650 t · Ø 14 m
FOC per load-out	≈ 2,050 – 2,550 route-km
Stowage form	Below-deck cable tank

POWER & PROPULSION

Main generators	6 × Wärtsilä 9L20 @ 1,800 kW
Total installed power	≈ 10,800 kW
Propulsion	2 × 3,000 kW, twin CPP Ø 3.6 m
Bow thruster	1,200 kW tunnel
Retractable azimuth	850 kW
Stern thruster	1,200 kW — new
Energy storage	1,500 kWh ESS — new
Emergency generator	185 ekW

PERFORMANCE, ACCOMMODATION & CLASS

Max / economy speed	15.5 / 10.5 kn
Endurance	40 days at sea
Fuel / fresh water	1,510 / 770 m³
Continuous bollard pull	88 t
Dynamic positioning	DP2 — retrofit
Persons on board	69
Classification	DNV · Ice(C) · NAUT(AW)

HULL OF RECORD — SW COLUMBUS (IMO 9452945)

DNV ✕1A1 BWM(T) Clean COMF(V-3) E0 HELDK Ice(C) NAUT(AW) SF TMON. Built 2009, Barreras, Spain; keel laid 2007. Teal entries denote new or modified equipment within the conversion scope.

A repair ship the market is short of

Around 64% of the global cable maintenance fleet reaches end of service life by 2040 against a 48% growth in cable kilometres, and most of the replacement demand sits in Asia. A converted SX124 answers that demand at a fraction of newbuild cost and lead time.

A proven X-BOW hull, already built

- Ulstein SX124, 2009 — the bow form Ulstein market for cable work
- Second-hand acquisition and conversion well below newbuild cost
- Delivery in months against multi-year newbuild lead times

A complete handling and burial spread

- 40 t drum cable engine on a Ø 4.0 m bend radius, with a 4 t DOHB
- SMD QT600 burial ROV — 3.0 m burial depth to 2,500 msw
- Twin Ø 3.0 m stern sheaves, 30 t quadrant and 60 t grapnel and A&R winch

Spaces that already suit cable work

- Streamer hold becomes a Ø 14 m below-deck cable tank
- Instrument room becomes the cable test and termination room
- Bird repair room becomes the climate-controlled jointing shelter

ALL-NEW FO CABLE HANDLING SPREAD: BURIAL ROV · DOHB · STERN SHEAVES · WORK-CLASS ROV

CABLE HANDLING & DECK — ALL NEW

Lay & burial ROV	SMD QT600
Burial depth	3.0 m · 2,500 msw
Burial ROV power	450 kW
Burial ROV LARS	A-frame + umbilical winch
Drum cable engine	SMD, Ø 4.0 m, 40 t
DOHB	4 wheel-pair, 4 t
Stern sheaves	2 × Ø 3.0 m
Firing line	≈ 45 m to stern sheaves
Quadrant	1 × 30 t SWL
Work-class ROV	2,000 m rated, with LARS
Offshore crane	10 t @ 20 m retained
Grapnel & A&R winch	60 t

THE CONVERSION

The seismic spread comes out — streamer reels and handling gantries, the air-gun system and its compressors, and the recording and processing suite — releasing around 900 t of lightweight back to cable payload. The streamer hold becomes a Ø 14 m below-deck cable tank, the compressor room the cable machinery space, the instrument room cable test and termination, and the bird repair room a climate-controlled jointing shelter.

RETAINED Hull, main machinery, generators, accommodation, ballast and anti-roll systems.

NEW Cable tank, cable machinery and spread, jointing shelter, ROV and LARS, stern thruster, DP2, ESS. ≈ 1,260 t.

AT A GLANCE

- Dedicated fibre-optic repair and maintenance vessel
- ≈ 1,550 t below-deck cable tank, ≈ 2,050–2,550 route-km
- 40 days at sea on the owner's own consistent basis
- X-BOW motion advantage; 69 berths, 40 days at sea

Prepared September 2026. Subject to inspection and final equipment selection.

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