

# Green power?

A recently delivered sailing cat built by Robertson & Caine in South Africa sports an efficient diesel-electric propulsion installation from onboard-power specialist Glacier Bay. And more are planned.

South Africa-based Robertson & Caine, the third largest cruising cat builder in the world, recently delivered its first boat with a diesel electric installation. The boat was delivered to the world's largest charter operator, The Moorings, as a Mooring 4300 Electric. She is good for up to 7.5 knots and probably eventually 8.5 knots with some tweaking to the props. The installation comprises a 25kW Ossa Powerlite diesel generator and two electric motors.

This first installation has proved extremely reliable thus far. It travelled from South Africa without any drive system hitches last summer and has been more or less maintenance-free ever since.

This installation does not make use of regeneration (using the props when sailing to charge up the batteries), as those concerned believe it is essentially silly to slow the boat down to charge batteries.

As for the cost implications of installing a DEP installation like this, they are not as steep as they may at first seem. For the boat owner the cost of this Moorings 4300 installation would weigh in at around US\$47,000 (€35,000) more than a standard boat with a conventional diesel and shaft installation, but once the price of a genset was added, as they invariably are, the difference would only be around the US\$27,000 (€20,000) mark.

Another factor to consider is weight. One generator like the one aboard the Mooring 4300 and two electric motors would weigh 90kg-130kg (200lbs-300lbs) less than the more usual installation comprising two diesels and one generator and those calculations take into consideration different battery requirements. An installation like this replaces the three diesels aboard a boat like this with just one.

The Moorings endorsement was particularly good for Glacier Bay. As Lex Raas says, reduced maintenance and reliability are big issues for charter companies and especially to the world's largest. "This is the future," he says. "Environment protection is a major concern for us and installations like this mean considerably less impact on the oceans our fleets sail."

For more, visit [www.glacierbayinc.com](http://www.glacierbayinc.com). ★

**1 & 2** Glacier Bay's generator in its metallic green enclosure. **3** The 25kW generator is located in a foredeck locker. Weight distribution aboard is much better with the weight of the genset forward. **4** One of the two electric motors. **5** The Moorings 4300 Electric.

