



SPACE How the design and execution of support vessels ensure a superyacht remains a superyacht.

TECH TALK Understanding the effect of sound on the interior and its relevance to yacht design. CASE STUDY Seasoned yacht owners share their experiences of the design process and the lessons learned. DESIGNER GOB A look at the Global Order Book by design reveals which studios lead the market.

YACHT EXTENDER

The value of a support vessel is obvious for Fraser Yachts' sales broker Filippo Rossi, who believes the market's perception of this vessel type continues to change. Using Lynx Yachts' Yacht-X-Tender (YXT) as an example, Rossi outlines some of the benefits of such a vessel.

The support vessel offers several benefits to the mothership and its crew. Primarily it provides the extra space that addresses the typical issues found on the mothership, such as a shortage of dry and cold storage space or laundry space. It also provides the ability to carry additional larger toys and tenders, hence overcoming the usual restrictions and compromises. Additional crew accommodation, as well as guest accommodation, is also a great benefit.

Lastly, the toys and tenders are completely handled by the support vessel, which is something that is certainly appreciated by the captains of motherships, as it allows their crew to focus on the comfort of their guests. In a nutshell, support vessels remove all constraints and restrictions, allowing the crew of the mothership to work comfortably.

A YXT will carry additional and bigger tenders; it will travel ahead of the mothership to make sure all the toys and tenders are ready for guests upon their arrival. The mothership can then leave with its guests, and the YXT will load the tenders before moving to the next destination.



All this allows guests to have more leisure time and more fun with additional and larger toys—bigger RIBs, sailboats, quads and buggies, submarines and so on. The YXT can carry a limo tender or larger RIB that will take guests to the port safely while keeping them dry. However, the YXT could also be configured to provide a spa for guests to enjoy, or a large open sundeck for dinners or parties that you would not normally have room for on the mothership. Alternatively, the yacht could be configured to provide extra crew or even guest accommodation for large groups that wouldn't fit within the normal 12 passenger limit of most superyachts.

The purpose of the support vessel is in its name. I believe that the purpose has not changed; it is the way people look at it and the use that is changing. The first support vessels were built to go on expeditions, but nowadays we see more yacht owners eying the acquisition of support vessels because they are frustrated with the limitations and constraints of their existing yacht.

When they realise that a YXT costs less to acquire and operate than up-sizing their yacht they become seriously interested in the facilities it has to offer.

