

LLOYD'S LIST

Fuel system could save millions of dollars

A FUEL saving system developed in Vancouver by two Russian immigrants could save fleet operators millions of dollars, its developers say.

BC Ferry Corp, operator of one of North America's largest ferry fleets, has confirmed that the system designed by marine engineers Victor and Anatoly Mezheritsky of Vicmar Engineering Ltd of Vancouver is being tested on the ferry *Queen of Alberni*.

Victor Mezheritsky said: "We have been getting excellent results on the *Queen of Alberni*. According to (BC Ferries) own data, we could save

them \$150,000 a year on that one vessel."

Another major BC fleet operator said Vicmar's engine washing system had tested "better than any other we have tried to date".

Seaspan International, which operates British Columbia's biggest towboat fleet, said tests over the past year on its rail and traller ship *Seaspan Greg* had shown fuel savings of close to 6%.

Seaspan spends about \$11m a year on marine diesel fuel, consuming in excess of 36m litres annually. BC Ferries' fuel costs totalled \$32.5m last year.

"Of all the things we have tested for fuel efficiency over the years, it's probably the most positive result we have got," Seaspan rail superintendent Jim Yahemech said in a telephone interview.

"I am not going to be totally con-

vinced until I tear the engine down next year to see if there are any adverse effects, but so far there is no indication of any."

The brothers Mezheritsky emigrated from what was formerly the Soviet Union several years ago.

According to Mr Yahemech the fuel saving technology they brought with them is new to Canada.

Victor Mezheritsky said: "It completely removes deposits from turbo chargers, air coolers, air intake manifolds and exhaust/intake valves without engine disassembly."

They say a cleaner engine, apart

from being mere efficient, reduces smoke emissions.

Mr Yahemech said by testing Vicmar's system on one of the *Seaspan Greg's* twin engines it was possible to compare fuel consumption over a 20-day test period.

He said the saving was 2.9%. An additional 3% saving resulted from turbo nozzle modifications also designed by Vicmar.

Victor Mezheritsky said his company was negotiating with about 30 companies in Canada and the US which were interested in the technology.