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## **READY, STEADY, DESIGN** CONTEST

An exciting surprise was awaiting journalists who visited Oceanco this year: a design contest. Paired with professional designers, teams were asked to elaborate a concept for an Oceanco-style megayacht. This led to an exciting brainstorming session, which produced interesting results. Antonio Romano of Studio Hot Lab: yacht & design led the winning team, which included Maria Roberta Morso of Yachts International. Their Fusion 110m won first prize.





The Oceanco Seven Seas (Y-706) before delivery; the shipyard is building a state-of-the-art facility to handle even bigger projects

Oceanco, already known for its exceptional superyachts, seems intent to continue pushing the envelope to answer the demands of a very select clientele. The builder recently signed a contract for the construction of a 301-foot (92-meter) yacht, which has already started at Oceanco's hull facility. It is only known as PAI 64. Under construction when we visited were Y707, a 290-foot (88.5-meter) yacht designed by Sam Sorgiovanni, and the 280-foot (85.6-meter) Y708, designed by Igor Lobanov and Alberto Pinto, scheduled to be completed in late 2012. Once the owner of Y707 takes delivery in early 2012, PA164 will move into her slot.

Confidentiality agreements do not allow the yard to say any more about these or future projects. Suffice to say that Oceanco is making a significant investment into a new facility, temperature controlled and highly secured, which will accommodate vessels as large as 459 feet (or 140 meters) and up to 1,000 subcontractors and authorized visitors at once. Virtually impervious to outside temperature variations, the concrete facility will be monitored through a Radio Frequency Identification system to ensure safety and confidentiality. Individual temperature and humidity controls will maintain a museum-quality ambient temperature suitable for the finishing of yachts, handled as works of art. A new dock, with built-in flexibility, will also allow Oceanco to significantly extend the range of projects it can handle. CEO Marcel Onkenhout said that the shipyard's owner, Omani businessman Dr. Mohammed Al Barwani, has the vision to further invest in research and new-concept development. The new facility, we're told, has expansion possibilities built in.

For more information, visit oceancoyacht.com