An insider’s job

Azipod® technician Markus Leskinen is certified to work inside a podded propulsion unit in case it needs servicing while at sea. This makes it possible to carry out even extensive tasks like changing bearings while a vessel is at sea, significantly reducing downtime.

Asked whether it is scary to work inside such a narrow space under water, Leskinen replies: “not scary but very hot”.

When temperatures inside the unit can reach 40 to 50 degrees Celsius, it is important to drink lots of water as the work can be heavy and take time. On a job in Turkey, Leskinen says they worked for 12 hours to complete the mission.

To become certified to work inside an Azipod®, he was put through both a health and psychological test.

Safety first
In addition to making sure that the technician selected for this work is mentally and physically fit for hard work in a very confined space, security measures are also put in place in case the technician runs into problems. Carrying safety belts enable the technician to be hoisted out of the pod, and he also has a companion – for safety reasons Azipod® technicians always work in pairs.

Inside the pod
To enable our readers to share the experience, we equipped Leskinen with a helmet camera and sent him inside an Azipod® unit. This time he went into a unit still at the factory with the inspection hatches open.

Scan the code to follow Markus Leskinen inside the Azipod®
Azpod® XO being built