20 years of Baltic Sea monitoring
1986-1989 Prehistory

- Mati Kahru, Sulev Nõmmann (EMI), Kaisa Kononen, Juha-Markku Leppänen
- Testing of flow-through systems in PEX 86 project (ICES Baltic patchiness study) on board Arnold Weimer
- Testing the system on board Aranda during the "vernal missions"
1990

Unparalleled by her reputation as the home of the Finnish vodka-tourism, GO had the honour of being the 1st Alg@liner.

GO acted within Alg@line 1990-91, but steamed on her route altogether 1980-2000.


Leading Actress
Georg Ots

Supporting Actors
Mati Kahru, Sulev Nõmmann (EMI)

MTL Alg@crew

Production
Estonian Shipping Company

Direction
Helsinki-Tallinn
The most famous Baltic ferry had a long career, grounding the Alg@line brand, first 1992-97 across the Baltic Proper, and yet 1998-2004 across the Gulf of Finland.

- Built in 1977, she was the biggest and fastest ferry in the world at that time, with top speed of 30 knots.
- In September 2005, she was rented to USA to accommodate students in the hurricane Katrina’s disaster area.
Fennia was built in 1966, being the first Baltic ferry with a swimming pool.

She acted as an Alg@liner in the Quark area 1992-95.

Leading Actress
Fennia

Supporting Actors
Sinikka Jokela, Olle Siren
(Kokkolan vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri)
Eeva-Kaarina Aaltonen
(Pohjanmaan vesiensuojeluyhdistys, Pietarsaari)
Hans-Göran Lax (Vaasan vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri)

Production
Wasa Line / Silja Line

Direction
Kokkola-Vaasa-Pietarsaari-Skellefteå-Umeå
KS was the former of the two Alg@liners especially targeted to monitor the state of the Eastern Gulf of Finland. KS acted 1992-95, and Silja Opera did the same in the 2000s.

Her Baltic career ended quite unexpectedly in 1996, when her departure from the Kiel harbor was denied due to bankruptcy of her shipping company.
1993 - Alg@line’s true beginning

**Supporting Actors**

| Harri Hongell, Sinikka Jokela, Olle Siren (Kokkolan vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri) |
| Karl-Erik Storberg, Pertti Sevola, Hans-Göran Lax (Vaasan vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri) |
| Kauko Häkkilä, Jouko Hakala, Teija Virtanen (Turun vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri) |
| Tore Lindholm, Petra Öhman (Åbo akademi) |
| Ilppo Vuorinen, Anita Mäkinen (Saaristomeren tutkimuslaitos) |
| Kalevi Keynäs, Guy Hälfors, Jouko Pokki (Tvärminne) |
| Johanna Mattila Kyösti Jumpanen (Lounais-suomen vesiensuojeluyhdistys) |
| Ilpo Kettunen, Marja Kauppi (Kymen vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri) |
| Hilkka Viljamaa, Eeva-Riitta Puomio, Leena Villa (Helsingin vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri) |
| Liisa Lepistö, Pentti Kangas, Pirkko Kokkonen, Vesa Gran, Pirkko Kauppila (Vesi- ja ympäristöhallitus) |
| MTLAlg@crew |

- The nationwide monitoring and dissemination of the state of the Baltic Sea environment commenced
- The weekly situation was mapped by phone meetings and the dissemination for the end-users was fax-based
- Mikaela Kruskopf invented the term Alg@fax
1995 - Alg@line into the web

- Kimmo Kahma brought up the benefits of using the internet as a communication platform
- The predecessor of the Baltic Sea Portal was introduced
- The Portal itself was released in 2002
- The Baltic Sea Portal 2006 (FI)
  - 136 portal news
  - 46 algae news
  - web hits 7.4 million
The explorers of the southern Finnish archipelago within the Alg@line started their career.

For KB, that career is still on-going, (although not without breaks), which makes KB currently the Alg@liner with the longest-lasting contract.

KB and KR are the only Alg@liners that have ploughed through fresh waters.
1996

Outokumpu (odd knoll) deserves her name
- Her route is really something else than the other ferries’ ones
- She is the only cargo ship that has acted as an Alg@liner
- She steamed on her route 1996-99 shipping Outokumpu Oy Kokkola zinc factory’s products
- Her successor is in search

Leading Actress
Outokumpu

Supporting Actors
Sinikka Jokela, Olle Siren, Hans-Göran Lax (Länsi-Suomen ympäristökeskus)

Production
Outokumpu Shipping Oy

Direction
Kokkola-Rotterdam
1998-99 New grand Alg@line

- WQ’s role as an Alg@liner lasted 1998-99
- WQ was Fennia’s route partner in the Quark area in the middle 90s

Leading Actress
Wasa Queen

Supporting Actors
Katja Pellikka (Helsingin kaupungin ympäristökeskus)
Mikaela Ahlman (Uudenmaan ympäristökeskus)

Production
Henrik Bachér, Mikael Lindholm, Anders Nyman, Birgitta Öhman, Christina Nousiainen (Silja/Tallink Silja)

Direction
Helsinki-Tallinn
Finnjet’s shiny pale-faced afterlife as an Alg@liner lasted 1999-2004
1999

Leading Actress
Silja Serenade

Supporting Actors
Mikaela Ahlman (Uudenmaan ympäristökeskus)
Production
Henrik Bachér, Mikael Lindholm, Anders Nyman, Birgitta Öhman, Christina Nousiainen (Silja / Tallink Silja)
Direction
Helsinki-Maarianhamina-Tukholma

- SS has provided a huge dataset from the SW Finnish coastal area and the Archipelago Sea
- Currently, she is the longest-working Alg@liner with an uninterrupted career!
FP was Finnjet’s successor with a role of Baltic Proper steamer

Actually, she did one better; her day-in lasted all the way to 2007, as compared to Finnjet’s six years

She holds an all-time record of collecting more water samples (over 6000 of 900 ml) than any other Alg@liner

Finnjet (over 5000) got quite close ja Serenade (slightly less than 5000) has still chances to hit the pole position
1998 - CPR

Lead actresses
- Hamnö
- Transgard
- Serenaden

Supporting Actors
- MTLAlg@crew

Production
- Kimmo Kari (Transfennica)

Direction
- Helsinki/Hanko-Lübeck
- Hamina-Lübeck

- Continuous plankton recorder strengthened Alg@line’s menu
- CPR was donated by Transfennica
1999 – Coastal guard’s parade begins

Leading Actress
Turva
Supporting Actors
Hans-Göran Lax, Juha Katajisto, Hannu Jerohin (Länsi-Suomen ympäristökeskus)
Direction
Gulf of Bothnia
2002-05

Leading Actress
Merikarhu
Sivuroolissa
MTLAlg@crew
Direction
Gulf of Finland 1999-

- Finnish Coastal Guard joined the Alg@line-forces
- Patrol ships’ habits differed from the ones of the commercial Alg@liners; you don’t get to know about the patrol ships’ manoeuvres beforehand
- Merikarhu is the only Alg@liner that probes the Baltic deeper than at 5 m depth (CTD)
- Trivia: Silja Opera is the only Alg@liner that has visited the Baltic deeper than at 5 m depth (more later)
2000 – Sea scouts

Supporting Actors
Aki Mäkinen, Kaisa Luodekari, Jari Päkkilä, Jukka Kostiainen
+ unnumbered group of sea scouts
MTL Alg@crew

- Sea scouts provide the bulk of the blue-green algal observations
- They also measure Secchi depths
2002 – Coastal pilots brought the algal bloom maps

Maps over the blue-green algal blooms in the Finnish sea areas were introduced as a new product. Coastal Guard air bases in Helsinki and Turku fax the eye-based maps. It is quite easy to judge the flight route from the algal distributions.

Leading Actress
Super Puma, Dornier, Agusta-Bell

Supporting Actors
Erkki Uitti, Mikko Paiho, Antti Pesari, Santtu Mannila, Ville Marttila
(Rajavartiolaitoksen vartiolentolaivue)
MTLAlg@crew
2003

Leading Actress
Silja Opera (a.k.a. Viking Saga, Sally Albatross)

Supporting Actors
MTLAlg@crew

Production
Henrik Bachér, Mikael Lindholm, Anders Nyman, Birgitta Öhman, Christina Nousiainen (Silja / Tallink Silja)

Direction
Helsinki-St. Petersburg
Helsinki-Tallinn-Riga
Helsinki-Mariehamn-Visby

- SO is the latter of the explorers of the Eastern Gulf of Finland. Furthermore, she is the only true Alg@line cruiser; she provides no room for cars
- Don Quixote of the Alg@line (although being a she): burned all the way to the hull in Stockholm port in 1990, was re-built, sank onto the Porkkala shoal in 1994, ran aground in St. Petersburg port in 2003
- Currently she steams in the Mediterranean, replacing a ship that sank in April 2007!
2003

**Leading Actress**
Kristina Brahe

**Supporting Actors**
Jouni Törrönen, Pentti Välipakka, Pauli Haimi (Kaakkois-Suomen ympäristökeskus)
Katja Pellikka, Päivi Munne, Ilppo Kajaste (Helsingin kaupungin ympäristökeskus)

**Production**
Mikko Partanen (Kristina Cruises)

**Direction**
Savonlinna-Vyborg-Kotka-Helsinki-Mariehamn

- KB made a comeback as an Alg@liner
Romantika was engaged to back-up the retiring Finnjet.
Later, she chose the route Tallinn-Stockholm in 2006.
The transfer of the equipment from Finnjet to Romantika in Tallinn port was undoubtedly the fastest in the Alg@line history; from the ship to another about 10 min.

Leading Actress
Romantika
Supporting Actors
Andres Jaanus, Inga Lips (EMI)
Urmas Lips, Raivo Portsmuth (EMA)
Production
Tallink
Direction
Helsinki-Tallinn
Stockholm-Tallinn
2006

Leading Actress
Galaxy

Supporting Actors
Inga Lips, Urmas Lips (Estonian Marine Systems Institute)
Raivo Portsmouth (Estonian Maritime Academy)

Production
Tallink

Direction
Helsinki-Tallinn

- Galaxy replaced Romantika, and started to zigzag in and out the Gulf of Finland traffic
- The face of the actress has divided opinions
- She will change probably to the route Turku-stockholm in the early summer
Finnlines hired Finnmaid as the new Baltic voyager
The replaced Finnpartner currently acts under the Swedish flag, having Malmö as the home port
Finnmaid is the first actress that allowed the Alg@line’s aspects to be taken into consideration during her building process

Leading Actress
Finnmaid
Supporting actors
MTLAlg@crew
Production
Anna-Liisa Perttilä, Henrik Lindroos, Juha Ahia, Lars Kvikström (Finnlines)
Direction
Helsinki-Travemünde
2008

- TransPaper

**Leading Actress**
TransPaper

**Supporting actors**
SYKE MRC
SMHI

**Production**
TransAtlantic

**Direction**
Kemi – Oulu – Lübeck - Göteborg

- First ferrybox line covering the whole Gulf of Bothnia
- 24 parameters measured + weather station
2009

**Leading Actress**

**Baltic Princess**

**Supporting Actors**

Villu Kikas, Urmas Lips, Raivo Portsmuth (EMA)

**Production**

Tallink

**Direction**

Helsinki-Tallinn

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**Leading Actress**

**Viktoria**

**Supporting Actors**

Andres Jaanus (EMI)

**Production**

Tallink

**Direction**

Tallinn - Stockholm
2011

Leading Actress
MTA Louhi

Supporting Actors
SYKE
Ministry of Defence

Production
Uudenkaupungin työvene Oy

Direction
Random walk, harbour Upinniemi
2012

Leading Actress
Finnsea

Supporting Actors
SYKE

Production
Finnlines

Direction
St Petersburg-Helsinki-Antwerpen-Bilbao
2013 - Celebrating 20 years of Alg@line!

Photos: Saija Halfora