STEPHAN BESTER

CHIEF ENGINEER · Y3 / SV

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY



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Fort Lauderdale, Florida | US Permanent Resident

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Chief Engineer with fifteen years running engine rooms on private and charter yachts from 33 to 58 metres, from newbuild commissioning and high-voltage management to refit, ocean delivery and full-season operation. Diesel-electric and hybrid plant, MTU, CAT and John Deere, ISM implementation, Class and Flag surveys. Hands-on by preference: if a fault can be repaired in house, it will be.

It is my intention to secure a position as Chief Engineer onboard a vessel that will make use of my skill level and advance the wellbeing of the vessel to a higher level on a daily basis.

SEA SERVICE

M/Y Graycliffs

Dec 2025 to Aug 2026

Chief Engineer · 50 m Feadship · permanent · private

- Newbuild commissioning and testing of all systems; built the IDEA maintenance and inventory system from scratch.
- High-voltage training and management; Mediterranean season, then Atlantic crossing to the US East Coast.

2 × 129 kW and 2 × 490 kW John Deere generators, 250 kW hybrid battery bank, Schottel drives.

R/V Scintilla Maris

Aug to Sep 2025

Chief Engineer · 45 m Damen · delivery

- Ocean delivery, Reykjavik to Brunswick, Georgia.

3 × 550 kW and 2 × 220 kW Volvo Penta generators, 250 kW hybrid bank, electric direct-shaft propulsion.

M/Y Andiamo II

May to Jul 2025

Chief Engineer · 33 m Pershing · delivery

- Delivery, West Palm Beach to Harbor Springs, Michigan.

3 × MTU 16V 2000 M84, 4,050 kW.

M/Y Unbridled

Apr 2024 to Apr 2025

Chief Engineer · 58 m Trinity · permanent · private and charter

- US East and West Coast, Central America and the Caribbean.

2 × CAT 3512, 4,024 kW.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Diesel engines and generators	10/10
Fault finding, repair and problem-solving	10/10
Newbuild commissioning	9/10
High-voltage and hybrid systems	9/10
Planned maintenance, ISM and environmental compliance	9/10
Budgeting, procurement and inventory stewardship	8/10
HVAC, hydraulics and controls	8/10
Technical competence, technological fluency and continuous learning	9/10

SKILLS

- Organization
- Situational awareness
- Cross-departmental awareness
- Communication and teamwork
- Emotional intelligence (“reading the room”)
- Cultural sensitivity
- Tact and diplomacy
- Vendor and port-agent diplomacy
- Anticipatory hospitality
- Crisis leadership and calm triage
- Meticulous handover and survey-ready documentation

STRENGTHS

- Hands-on
- Independent
- Adaptability
- Proactivity
- Coachability and accountability
- Resourcefulness
- Punctuality and reliability
- Respect for chain of command
- Discretion and confidentiality
- Composure and resilience
- Mentorship and patience
- Consistency on “invisible” tasks

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SEA SERVICE (CONTINUED)

M/Y Oceanos
Nov 2023 to Mar 2024

Chief Engineer · 52 m Mondomarine · rotation · private and charter

- US East Coast and Caribbean.

2 × CAT 3512, 4,024 kW.

M/Y Casino Royale / Lady Elaine
Sep 2021 to Sep 2023

Chief Engineer · 50 m Christensen · rotation · private and charter

- US East Coast and Caribbean.

2 × MTU 16V 4000 M73, 5,120 kW.

M/Y Amanti
May 2019 to Aug 2021

Chief Engineer · 52 m Feadship · permanent · live-aboard owners

- Ran the US$2.1 million annual engineering budget and the nine-month refit: three generators replaced by two, exhaust treatment integrated with vessel controls.

2 × CAT 3512, 3,680 kW.

M/Y Ninkasi
Apr 2018 to May 2019

Chief Engineer · 45 m Holland Jachtbouw · permanent

- US East Coast and Caribbean.

3 × MTU 16V 2000 M84, 4,050 kW.

M/Y Coquette
Mar 2016 to Mar 2017

Sole Engineer · Benetti · permanent · private

- US East Coast and Caribbean.

M/Y Sin or Swim
Feb 2014 to Feb 2016

Sole Engineer · Azimut · permanent · private

- US East Coast and Caribbean.

M/Y Coquette
Jan 2012 to Jan 2014

Sole Engineer · Benetti · permanent · private

- US East Coast and Caribbean.

QUALIFICATIONS

MCA Chief Engineer Y3 / SV	Mar 2017, to 2027	Cayman, Marshall Islands and Jamaica endorsements	held
STCW and ENG1	to 2028	MTU manufacturer training	held
High-voltage training, Netherlands	held	Project Management, Univ. of Pretoria	2012

All references are available on request.

HEALTHY HABITS

- Physical stamina
- Polished presentation
- Self-discipline and personal wellness

ONBOARD LIVING & MINDSET

- Shared-space etiquette
- Humility and “no job is too small” attitude
- Conflict resolution
- Optimism and positive energy
- Ego management

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Built the IDEA planned maintenance system on Graycliffs from scratch.
- Managed a US$2.1 million engineering budget and a nine-month refit.
- Over 68,000 nautical miles across ten yachts.

LANGUAGES

100%	100%	35%	35%
English Fluent	Afrikaans Fluent	Zulu Basic	N. Sotho Basic

INTERESTS

Photography · Videography
SCUBA diving · Travel

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