



Case

Automotive

Analyzing the TCO of marine engines using primary research

Objective

A US-based global management consulting firm, present in over 40 countries and involved in evaluating management decisions across public and private sectors, wanted to assess the overall cost of owning marine engines across America, Europe, and Southeast Asia. This required gathering first-hand information from an extremely hard-to-reach target group of boat operators and engine OEM dealers and distributors.

Solution

The client engaged Netscribes to overcome the challenge given its extensive panel network, domain expertise, and ability to reach hard-to-reach geographies and language groups. We implemented the following research methodology:

1. Background research:

We leveraged various paid and non-paid databases, web articles, and other secondary sources of information to get a deep understanding of marine engine usage and maintenance, including the local policies, industry standards, resource requirements, etc.

2. Identification of respondents:

We then identified target respondents involved in the purchasing decisions for ship or boat engines, including marine diesel engineers, operators, and service/maintenance managers. Netscribes analysts would call up the respondents and ask them some screener questions before scheduling appointments for the survey.

3. Primary research:

We conducted a web-based survey using CATI to understand the usage habits and find out relevant cost areas of owning marine engines. The project had an incidence rate of 20% as, out of a pool of every 100 respondents, around 40 successfully completed the screeners and only 20 completed the survey.

4. Quality check:

All completed surveys went through a stringent quality check process. First, the transcript submitted by the analyst is reviewed. On clearing that, the call recordings are sent through the QA team which then calls the respondents to verify their responses.

Netscribes completed the project in a turnaround time of four weeks.

Benefit

With accurate, first-hand information on the usage and maintenance of marine engines, the client was able to get a precise estimate of the overall cost of owning marine engines across target markets.

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