



## PRESS RELEASE

### **A German initiative launched for remote-controlled inland waterway shipping: SEAFAR cooperates with HGK Shipping and Reederei Deymann en route to a (partially) automated future**

Antwerp / Duisburg / Haren (Ems), 26 September 2022 – SEAFAR, the Belgian technology and service provider for remote-controlled inland waterway shipping or services with reduced crew numbers, is expanding to Germany. By establishing a German initiative, the company aims to promote (partially) autonomous inland waterway shipping on German waterways. It has been able to attract two leading German and European inland waterway shipping companies to the project in the shape of HGK Shipping and Reederei Deymann.

The three parties involved view remote-controlled travel or journeys with reduced crews as a groundbreaking solution in order to safeguard the future viability of German and therefore European inland waterway shipping. The initiative is designed to support the waterway system to successfully cope with the serious shortage of specialist workers and the challenges posed by the ongoing process of climate change and its associated effects on the long-term capacity of inland waterway shipping as a means of transport.

SEAFAR will demonstrate its technology and services in ongoing operations on various waterways within Germany in close conjunction with ministries, public authorities and federal state governments. The aim is to verify the safety and reliability of remote-controlled inland waterway shipping services and those with reduced crew levels in real conditions.

The project partners are making available seven vessels in all for the initiative. SEAFAR is introducing the necessary expertise and its practical experience, which the company has been able to gain in Belgium by operating remote-controlled inland waterway vessels and those with reduced crew numbers for two years. SEAFAR is also investing in a Remote Control Center in Duisburg, which will make it possible to operate vessels by remote control in Germany too from the first quarter of 2023 onwards.

The project partners will provide information about the project on their joint stand 190/191 at the Shipping Technics Logistics trade fair in Kalkar.

#### **About SEAFAR:**

SEAFAR is a technology and service provider based in Antwerp and it focuses on all issues related to remote-controlled inland waterway shipping operations or vessels with crews. SEAFAR develops and uses the latest technologies for highly automated and unmanned shipping. SEAFAR monitors and operates inland waterway and coastal vessels that are unmanned or have reduced crew levels through a control centre (Remote Control Center), where the focus is on effective and safe operations.

SEAFAR's technology offers one way of coping with the increasing shortage of specialist workers and provides the opportunity to improve the competitiveness of inland waterway shipping. This has resulted in an acceleration in the development of a new generation of automated and environmentally-friendly vessels.

#### **About HGK Shipping:**

HGK Shipping is the leading inland waterway shipping company in Europe. With a fleet consisting of more than 350 company and chartered inland waterway vessels, the company transports about 35 million tonnes of cargo every year. Focusing its operations on the river Rhine and its tributaries and the



associated canal system, HGK Shipping links the most important industrial regions in the BENELUX countries, France and Germany. HGK Shipping GmbH is a leading partner in the fields of Dry Goods, Gas, Liquid Chemicals and Ship Management.

**About Reederei Deymann:**

Reederei Deymann has developed into one of the major inland waterway shipping companies in Germany during the last few years. From the outset, the Reederei Deymann specialised in inland waterway tanker shipping and has grown constantly since that time. The current fleet consists of 57 modern tanker/cargo and container vessels. The entire team on land and on board focuses on offering the best possible transportation and services for the goods being moved. Reederei Deymann looks after its customers' concerns and finds ideal solutions for perfect transport operations.

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