



Press Release

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Covestro and HGK Shipping set sail on short-sea routes

Duisburg. Covestro and HGK Shipping are together pressing ahead to provide sustainable shipping services on European short-sea routes: the two companies have now signed an agreement to extend their existing partnership until 2040. Among other things, it involves refitting the vessel named “Amadeus Titanium” with a resource-saving wind assistance system. So-called VentoFoils® will be added to the liquid coaster belonging to the HGK Shipping subsidiary, Amadeus Schiffahrts- und Speditionen GmbH. This marks a further step on the part of the chemicals company and the HGK Group to each make a contribution towards meeting their sustainability goals thanks to having improved energy footprints and reducing CO₂ emissions.

The wing-like VentoFoils® have an integrated technology to actively channel air currents. According to the manufacturer, Econowind, they automatically adapt to the wind conditions so that the propulsion power resulting from them can be used in the best possible way. This concept makes it possible to save about ten percent in fuel on average as well as reduce CO₂ emissions.

“We’re developing solutions for the logistical challenges of tomorrow in close cooperation with our customers. Refitting the ‘Amadeus Titanium’ with VentoFoils® emphasises the commitment on the part of all those involved to achieve greater energy efficiency and handle shipping resources in a sustainable manner,” says Wolfgang Nowak, the Managing Director of Amadeus Schiffahrts- und Speditionen GmbH, explaining the motive behind the decision to refit the vessel.

“This extension of the agreement marks a further milestone in our long-standing partnership with HGK Shipping. Signing it underlines our joint commitment to provide reliable, sustainable and efficient logistics services and strengthen our strategic cooperation during the next few years. We value HGK as a reliable partner; it shares our vision of having transport chains that are viable for the future and is pursuing innovative goals with us,” says Stefan Kashelkar, the Logistics Manager at Covestro Deutschland AG, adding his voice.

The preparation work for refitting the “Amadeus Titanium” will take place as part of a scheduled period in dock in September 2025. The complete installation of the system is set to take place at the end of the year. De Bock Maritiem B.V., operating as the so-called technical manager of the vessel, is also involved in this project as a partner, alongside Econowind.

The maritime vessel, which has been converted from a dry coaster to a chemical tanker, has been exclusively operating for Covestro on European short-sea routes since October 2020. Amadeus Schifffahrt makes the vessel available and is responsible for the entire operational handling of the maritime logistics in the form of a service agreement. Its extension until 2040 was announced at the ‘transport logistic’ trade fair at the beginning of June.

HGK Shipping has already been working for the Covestro chemicals group for more than 80 years and is not only responsible for maritime traffic, but also transport services on inland waterways – including the initial leg of transportation from the production sites in Germany to the relevant international seaports.

Notes on the attached photos:

1. The illustration shows how the liquid coaster, “Amadeus Titanium”, which is used by the HGK Shipping subsidiary, Amadeus Schifffahrts- und Speditionen GmbH, will operate on short-sea routes in future with the retrofitted VentoFoil®.
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2. Continuing their cooperation arrangement for resource-saving transport logistics in coastal waters until 2040. From left to right: Steffen Bauer, the CEO of HGK Shipping, Nils Peterzelka, who works as the Sourcing Manager Regional Bulk Shipping in the Logistics Procurement division at Covestro, and Wolfgang Nowak, the Managing Director of Amadeus Schifffahrts- und Speditionen GmbH, in Munich in the process of signing the agreement at the ‘transport logistic’ trade fair in June 2025.
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About the HGK Group:

Häfen und Güterverkehr Köln AG (HGK) is the logistics company within the City of Cologne’s public utilities group. Formerly just a port operator, HGK has developed into a group that provides integrated transport and logistics services with operations across Europe. Structured in five divisions, Logistics & Intermodal, Shipping, Rail Operations, Infrastructure & Maintenance and Real Estate, the HGK Group operates the largest inland waterway port network in Germany, one of the largest private railway companies for transporting cargo, specialist logistics firms and terminals as well as its own railway network and workshops for railway goods traffic through its subsidiaries and holding companies. HGK Shipping GmbH is the largest inland waterway shipping company in Europe.

About the HGK Shipping division:

HGK Shipping is part of Häfen und Güterverkehr Köln AG. Its fleet comprises about 350 vessels, including owner-operated ships. The spectrum of goods transported ranges from liquid chemical products and liquefied gases to dry goods and even break-bulk cargo.

About Covestro:

Covestro is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of high-quality polymer materials and their components. With its innovative products, processes and methods, the company helps enhance sustainability and the quality of life in many areas. Covestro supplies customers around the world in key industries such as mobility, building and living, as well as the electrical and electronics sector. In

addition, polymers from Covestro are also used in sectors such as sports and leisure, telecommunications and health, as well as in the chemical industry itself.

The company is geared completely to the circular economy. In addition, Covestro aims to achieve climate neutrality for its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 2035, and the Group's Scope 3 emissions are also set to be climate neutral by 2050. Covestro generated sales of EUR 14.2 billion in fiscal year 2024. At the end of 2024, the company had 46 production sites worldwide and employed approximately 17,500 people (calculated as full-time equivalents).