

30 March 2021

Continuing the “Innovation & Sustainability” Initiative: HGK Shipping places an order for the construction of a state-of-the-art Type C tanker

HGK Shipping is setting the next milestone in terms of sustainable and innovative inland waterway transport: the shipping company placed an order for the construction of a Type C tanker with the Dutch shipyard, Scheepsreparatiebedrijf De Gerlien van Tiem, at the end of March and this vessel is designed to satisfy current and future requirements for inland waterway shipping. HGK Shipping is therefore continuing its strategic new building programme for the company's own inland waterway fleet using the motto “Innovation and Sustainability” in a very determined manner.

The “Synthese 18” tanker is once again enabling the company to fulfil a concept that is optimised for low-water conditions in combination with an alternative drive system technology; this means that the tanker can be used in a very flexible manner for the transport of liquid chemical products.

Norbert Meixner, Business Unit Director Liquid Chemicals, HGK Shipping, comments, “Following ‘Gas 94’, which will join the HGK Gas Shipping fleet in the autumn, we’re continuing to expand our fleet with vessels that are particularly suitable for future operations in our Liquid Chemicals division too. This is an important step for us, because innovation and sustainability are fundamentally important in chemical logistics in order to be able to offer the industry suitable transport solutions – both now and in future.”

The new chemical tanker is already due to go into service in 2022. The De Gerlien van Tiem shipyard, which is based in the Dutch town of Druten, has already handled several unique and complex concepts on behalf of the shipping company, most recently the conversion of a dry cargo coaster into a liquid chemicals coaster. This partnership is now being continued through the signing of the agreement on 26 March 2021.

“We’re delighted that De Gerlien van Tiem is building this innovative Type C tanker. Special features and optimisation potential, which has been geared towards practical operations at HGK Shipping for months, have been included in the concept. In the final analysis, De Gerlien van Tiem seized on our engineering concept in the best possible manner and persuaded us with its technical specifications,” says Tim Gödde, Business Unit Director Ship Management, HGK Shipping, and adds, “Close cooperation has linked our two companies and this has been

happening for many years. We've been thoroughly persuaded by the shipyard team's skills and high-quality work in various joint projects in the past."

As a long-standing partner of the chemical industry, HGK Liquid Chemicals supplies various industries with light and heavy liquid chemicals as well as non-hazardous liquid goods. The tanker fleet in the company's division transports about 6 million tonnes of liquid goods on the river Rhine and its tributaries, in the north-west German canal region as well as in Belgium, France and the Netherlands every year.

Photo caption: The HGK Group signed an agreement with the Dutch shipyard, De Gerlien van Tiem B.V., for the construction of "Synthese 18" on 26 March. From left to right: Eric Rietveld, Marijke van Tiem and Marcel van Tiem (Scheepsreparatiebedrijf De Gerlien van Tiem) as well as Tim Gödde and Adrian Sauer (HGK Shipping Group).

Making contact:

Would you like some more information? You can reach HGK press spokesperson, Christian Lorenz, on +49 221 / 390 11 90 or send an e-mail to: lorenz@hgk.de.

About the company:

Häfen und Güterverkehr Köln AG (HGK) is a logistics company within the Stadtwerke Köln Group. Formerly a port operator, HGK has developed into a group that provides integrated transport and logistics services with operations across Europe. Divided into five business divisions, Logistics & Intermodal, Shipping, Rail Operations, Infrastructure & Maintenance and Real Estate, the HGK Group operates, among other things, the largest inland waterway port network in Germany, one of the largest private goods railway companies, specialist logistics companies and terminals as well as its own network of railway routes and workshops for goods traffic through its subsidiaries and holding companies. In July 2020, HGK Shipping GmbH was founded and the European inland shipping activities of Imperial Shipping Holding GmbH were acquired. Thanks to this acquisition, the HGK Group now also includes one of the largest inland waterway shipping companies in Europe.

About HGK Shipping:

HGK Shipping is part of Häfen und Güterverkehr Köln AG. The fleet comprises 300 vessels, including private owner/operators. The spectrum of goods transported ranges from liquid chemical products and liquefied gases to dry goods and even break bulk cargo.