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## **Naming ceremony for new innovative member of the HGK Shipping fleet**

**Cologne / Rotterdam. HGK Shipping put into service another shallow-water vessel at an official ceremony on 15 June 2022. The innovative type C tanker was named ‘Synthese 18’ in the presence of invited guests at the Port of Rotterdam and then set off on its first official trip. It will be used on the river Rhine and its tributaries to transport liquid chemical products in future.**

The newest member of the HGK Shipping fleet also combines a design that is optimised for shallow water operations with a diesel electric drive system. “Thanks to our strategic programme for constructing new vessels, we’re laying the foundation for inland waterway shipping, which will meet the current and future requirements for sustainable and reliable transport operations. We’ll then manage to organise the transformation process towards providing decarbonised inland waterway shipping together with industry,” says Steffen Bauer, the CEO of HGK Shipping.

Norbert Meixner, the Business Unit Director Liquid Chemicals at HGK Shipping, adds, “The ‘Synthese 18’ marks a real milestone in transporting liquid chemicals on European waterways. It will enable us to maintain our role as a reliable partner for industry even during periods when water levels are low.” HGK Shipping’s innovative shallow-water tanker is designed in such a way that it can still transport a load weighing 300 tonnes if the water is just 1.05 metres deep. The ‘Synthese 18’ will therefore help ensure reliable supplies for the chemical industry in future, even if the water level on the river Rhine is critically low. The maximum payload capacity is 2,700 tonnes.

The shallow draught is made possible by the optimised uplift features of the vessel’s hull; this has been achieved by ingeniously arranging components such as the loading system and the drive technology. The vessel, which is 110 metres long and 11.45 metres wide, was developed at HGK Shipping’s Design Center – just like all the more recent additions to the company’s fleet – and was designed in close cooperation with the transport management experts at Wijgula BV in Druten, which will operate the vessel with freight.

“Numerous practical optimisation measures have been included in the design of the ‘Synthese 18’. Our shipbuilding engineers cooperated closely with the turn-key shipyard from the very first ideas in 2020. Together, we’ve managed to significantly reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per tonne kilometre even further. Although the shape of the bow and stern are unconventional – among other things, the vessel is equipped with a so-called bulbous bow – the intelligent power management system ensures that the power that is available (1,200 kW) is fed in and

used in the best possible manner. The stainless-steel tanker demonstrates that a combination of sustainability and reliability of supplies doesn't have to conflict with a high tonnage level per trip," says Tim Gödde, Business Unit Director Ship Management, HGK Shipping.

The Santierul Naval Orsova shipyard in Romania was commissioned to build the hull. The Dutch Scheepsreparatiebedrijf De Gerlien van Tiem shipyard based in Druten handled the complete outfitting operations. The work was concluded six weeks earlier than planned so that just 20 months elapsed between the initial concept and engineering work to the time that the vessel was put into service.

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

#### **Contact details:**

Would you like some more information? You can contact the HGK press spokesperson, Christian Lorenz, on +49 (0)221 / 390 11 90 or send an e-mail to: [lorenzch@hgk.de](mailto:lorenzch@hgk.de).

#### **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 HGK Shipping:**

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.