

22 November 2022

Wijgula can now officially call itself a “Royal” company

Cologne (Germany) / Druten (The Netherlands). A royal honour for Wijgula: Wijnhoff & Van Gulpen & Larsen B.V. (Wijgula), which is a subsidiary of HGK Shipping, was awarded the privilege of calling itself a “royal” company on 21 November 2022. The long-standing firm has been reliably transporting all kinds of liquid goods for 100 years. The distinction comes as royal recognition of the importance of the shipping company and it allows Wijgula to add the term “Royal” to its company name and use the royal crown.

Norbert Meixner, Managing Director of Wijgula and at the same time Business Unit Director Liquid Chemicals at HGK Shipping, accepted the royal honour from Jan Markink, a representative of the royal household, at an official ceremony at the company’s headquarters in Druten; Corry van Rhee-Oud Ammerveld, the Mayor of Druten, and the city councillor, Ronald Thoonen, were also present on this occasion.

“We feel extremely honoured to receive this award,” Norbert Meixner said. “This royal recognition confirms the outstanding reputation that our company enjoys; it has developed from being a sulphuric acid distributor to a modern shipping company for liquid chemicals and a market leader for transporting inorganic heavy chemicals during the past 100 years. This success story is based on two pillars: firstly, the excellent employees, who have made our company what it is today, and, secondly, our highly specialised fleet, which enables us to respond to our customers’ needs in the best possible way. We’re particularly delighted that we’re able to make investments in extremely modern and sustainable tankers with our new shareholder, HGK, and therefore be ideally equipped to face the future.”

The company celebrated the naming ceremony for “*Synthese 18*” in Rotterdam in June this year. The type C tanker is a shallow-water vessel with a diesel/electric drive system. It will be used on the river Rhine and its tributaries to transport liquid chemical products in future. HGK Shipping’s innovative shallow-water tanker vessel has been designed in such a way that it can still transport 300 tonnes of cargo, even if the water is only 1.05 m deep. The shipping company will continue to strengthen and modernise its fleet during the next few years through further new, innovative and sustainable vessels, which are already being constructed.

Wijgula supplies business customers, the chemical and metallurgical industries with products such as acids, alkalis, slurry and other liquid products using about 60 of its own or chartered type C and N tankers (exclusively double-hulled vessels). The fleet includes a broad range of special vessels so that it can respond to customers’ wishes in a flexible manner. The company transports about 6 million tonnes of goods between the ARA region, in Belgium, the Neth-

erlands, France, along the river Rhine and its tributaries and in the north-west German canal region every year. Wjgula strictly complies with the health & safety and environmental standards in all its operating procedures. A reliable quality assurance system, which also includes elements such as the ISO 9001:2015 standard, provides customers with the greatest possible transport safety.

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: lorenz@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 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.