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Charter agreement signed for the “GAS 96”: HGK Shipping will put the vessel into service for LyondellBasell from 2025 onwards

HGK Shipping signed a long-term charter agreement with the chemical company, LyondellBasell, for the “GAS 96” vessel on 6 December 2023. The gas tanker, which is powered by a diesel-electric motor and is optimised to operate in shallow waters, is currently being built and will probably go into service in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The signing of the agreement marks the final stage in the development process for the innovative new vessel. The “GAS 96” has been designed in close coordination with the customer and meets its requirements to be able to supply its business sites in a sustainable and reliable manner. The vessel will in future transport propylene oxide within the ARA region as well as ensure supplies to the company’s business sites in the Netherlands, Belgium and the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

As is the case with its sister vessels, the “GAS 96” has a diesel-electric drive system and is “future-fuel-ready”. The installed power management system optimises the power rating with what is required and reduces the fuel consumption and the exhaust emissions. The design of the new vessel has not only focused on sustainability aspects, but also its payload capacity. The innovative design of the vessel should particularly be emphasised at this point – and once again the HGK Shipping Design Center is responsible for this. The combination of a high payload capacity of 300 tonnes, even if navigable water levels are only 1.20 metres deep, and its dimensions – 110 metres long and 15 metres wide – distinguishes this vessel from anything that has operated on the river Rhine and its tributaries up to now. The maximum payload capacity is more than 2,500 tonnes. Thanks to its exceptional parameters, the “GAS 96” is setting a new milestone for inland waterway shipping.

The hull is currently being manufactured at a shipyard in Eastern Europe, while the final outfitting work will take place at the De Gerlien Van Tiem shipyard in Druten in the Netherlands.