

Press Release

Naming ceremony for innovative dry goods vessel: “Helios” benefits from having the world’s largest solar module structure on board an inland waterway vessel

Duisburg, 21 June 2024 – The latest vessel operated by Europe’s largest inland waterway shipping company was named at a ceremony in Düsseldorf, the state capital of North Rhine-Westphalia, yesterday. The “Helios”, a modern dry goods vessel operated by HGK Shipping, will sail for ADM, one of the world’s leading food and agricultural groups. The design not only includes the HGK Shipping standards for optimising operations in shallow waters and a diesel-electric drive system with “future-fuel-ready” capability, but also the installation of solar panels. The module, which has been inserted to make use of solar power and is larger than any other one found on an inland waterway vessel anywhere in the world, reduces the emissions significantly on the vessel that has been designed precisely for this purpose.

The “Helios”, which is 135 meters long and 11.45 meters wide, will mainly transport rape oilseed to Germany to the ADM business sites there. Vegetable oils are made from these seeds at the oil mills for many different applications. Thanks to the solar panels, which are inserted on the vessel’s hatches and can generate up to 90 megawatt hours of electricity, the vessel acts as its own power station for on-board operations. This saves up to 70 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year. The diesel-electric drive system also minimises the emissions of greenhouse gases and makes the vessel an important element for “greener” supply chains.

“It’s our goal to establish resilient and sustainable operations in dialogue with our customers from a wide variety of sectors so that they perfectly meet our customers’ requirements. We’re setting a spectacular milestone in the long-standing relationship with ADM, which is based on trust, through the ‘Helios’,” says Steffen Bauer, the CEO of HGK shipping, categorising the naming ceremony in the context of the close working relationship between the shipper and the logistics specialist.

Florian Bleikamp, the Managing Director of HGK Dry Shipping, adds his comments in the light of the new arrival to the fleet, “In order to best support our customer’s efforts for greater sustainability in its transport operations, we’re combining various technological measures to reduce CO₂ emissions on board the ‘Helios’. The result fills us with a sense of pride. The journeys made by this vessel will make an important contribution for even more environmentally friendly goods traffic between the ARA ports and Central Europe in future.”

“Putting the ‘Helios’ into service is an outstanding example of how HGK Shipping and ADM as a logistics company and supplier can together develop sustainable and innovative transport solutions,” says Max Barghahn, the Head of Transportation EMEA at ADM. “The inland waterway system plays a central role in our supply chains. It makes it possible to supply raw materials to our production sites in an efficient and resource-saving way and helps us reduce CO₂ emissions.” Carsten Radau, the Transportation Manager EMEA at ADM, adds, “Innovations and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions are a significant part of our strategy. The ‘Helios’ is an important step to guarantee reliable supplies for our production sites and, at the same time, minimise our ecological footprint. This cooperation underlines our commitment to using sustainable logistical solutions.”

Photo:



Caption: From left to right: Max Barghahn, Head of Transportation EMEA at ADM, Andreas Lemme, Managing Director of HGK Dry Shipping, Anja Grimske-Fuchs, Manager Operation, Execution & Logistics for Oilseeds at ADM and godmother of the “Helios”, Steffen Bauer, CEO of HGK Shipping, Sebastian Kuck, General Manager European Softseed Crush & Desk Head Softseed Global Trade, Carsten Radau, Transportation Manager EMEA at ADM, and Florian Bleikamp, Managing Director of HGK Dry Shipping, at the “Helios” naming ceremony in Duisburg. (Copyright: HGK Shipping)

Contact details:

Would you like some more information? You can contact the HGK spokesperson, Christian Lorenz, on +49 221 / 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 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.