



## Press Release

24 May 2023

### **HGK Shipping supports barge owner/operators with Green Award certification**

HGK Shipping is joining the Green Award certification programme, which provides environmentally-friendly solutions for inland waterway vessels, and it is therefore completing another important step in its commitment towards offering greater sustainability. HGK Shipping is Europe's largest inland waterway shipping company and has now become a provider of Green Award incentives, backdated to 1 March 2023. Vessels, which fly the shipping company's flag, but are not owned by it or, for example, equipped by it, now have the opportunity of claiming full reimbursement for the certification costs of the Green Award. HGK Shipping is also offering to support its partners with the certification process through its internal Ship Management department.

This incentive to obtain certification is designed to apply to all vessels that are used as part of a permanent contract arrangement for the "Dry" business division (HGK Dry Shipping GmbH or HGK Shipping GmbH) or the "Liquid Chemicals" division (Royal Wijnola B.V.).

HGK Shipping is constantly looking for more barge owner/operators for these divisions and is therefore seeking ship owners that want to operate their fleets or vessels in a sustainable manner. The aim is to support them, as well as existing partners, in their efforts to achieve sustainability with the help of the incentive system.

Steffen Bauer, the CEO of HGK Shipping, comments, "Our cooperation with Green Award is just another measure that HGK Shipping would like to use to help make inland waterway shipping even more eco-friendly. Once again, we're able to prove that we don't just talk about issues, but act when it comes to promoting the transition process towards a sustainable future."

HGK Shipping has at its disposal 350 company and chartered vessels, making it the largest inland waterway shipping fleet in Europe. Jan Fransen, the Executive Director of Green Award, says, "We're proud that HGK Shipping has opted to use the Green Award system. The fact that such a leading market participant is using Green Award as a tool to press ahead with sustainability in inland waterway shipping is giving our team a great motivational boost too. We're also aiming to continue rolling out Green Award in Europe and this step will support us in this process."



#### 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.

#### About Green Award:

Green Award Inland Navigation is promoting safety and sustainability in the inland waterway shipping sector together with almost 1,200 inland waterway shipping companies and a group of more than 50 ports, suppliers and service providers. Green Award Inland Shipping emerged from Green Award for Maritime Shipping, which was established in 1994 and certifies ships and shipping companies in terms of their quality, safety and environmental issues around the globe. Green Award operates on a non-profit basis with an extensive list of requirements, combined with a system of inspections, certification and rewards.

#### Photo Caption:



(from left to right)

Roel Strik, QEHS Superintendent, HGK Shipping; Jan Fransen, Executive Director, Green Award; Egbert Schelhaas, Financial Director Business Unit Liquid Chemicals, HGK Shipping; Steffen Bauer, CEO, HGK Shipping; Jan Eric Klonki, Head of QEHS, HGK Shipping (Copyright: HGK Shipping)

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