



SALZGITTER AG
Mensch, Stahl und Technologie

HGK
INTEGRATED LOGISTICS GROUP

Press Release

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HGK Shipping and the Salzgitter AG Group promote sustainable supply chains on inland waterways

Duisburg / Salzgitter. HGK Shipping and Salzgitter AG are planning to enhance their cooperation and jointly promote and develop sustainable logistics concepts for inland waterways in future. Two subsidiaries of Salzgitter AG – Salzgitter Flachstahl and DEUMU-Deutsche Erz- und Metall-Union – and Europe’s largest inland waterway shipping company, HGK Shipping, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for this purpose in Salzgitter on 10 August.

The overriding goal is to continue developing low-emission logistics chains and establish them as the norm. The major focus is on setting up and developing paired transport operations, i.e., to generate return loads in order to prevent empty runs and optimise the use of the shipping space that is available. This cooperation arrangement particularly provides the opportunity of combining and planning transport operations in an intelligent manner. While Salzgitter Flachstahl (SZFG) has specialised in manufacturing flat steel products for vehicle and pipe manufacturers and the building industry, for example, DEUMU recycles scrap steel, metals and alloys and acts as a trader for them.

Both of the Salzgitter AG companies are aiming to make much greater use of inland waterway shipping in their logistics chains in their efforts to achieve sustainability. The companies operating within the Salzgitter AG Group are connected to the inland waterway system at numerous business sites with the result that inland waterway vessels already transport more than one million tonnes of the Group’s steel along Europe’s waterways every year. This share can be further enhanced if the right conditions are put in place.

“Inland waterway shipping is one of the most sustainable means of transport”

Sandrina Sieverdingbeck, the Managing Director of DEUMU, explains why the cooperation arrangement is so important. “The Salzgitter AG Group has set itself the strategic goal of playing a leading role in the circular economy. One key element here will involve using scrap steel to obtain crude steel. This also includes having sustainable logistics operations for this very important secondary raw material. As a result, we want to make greater use of inland waterways for our transport operations – and this can only be a success story if you have strong partners.”

Fabian Gerdes, the Head of Customer Logistics at SZFG, also underlines the importance of the cooperation arrangement that the partners are seeking. “We’ll increasingly establish sustainable solutions such as inland waterway shipping in our supply and logistics chains too. Up to now, this has attracted little attention in the public debate and perception when experts discuss the subject of introducing a transport revolution and easing the pressure on roads. However, inland waterway shipping is already one of the most sustainable means of transport and is absolutely essential for the steel industry. It offers the potential for increasing the volumes that are transported in the short and medium term.”

Florian Bleikamp, the Head of the Chartering Canal at HGK Dry Shipping GmbH, emphasises, “This cooperation with the Salzgitter AG Group confirms our view that the need for sustainable solutions on the inland waterway system continues unabated. We can only develop viable solutions for the future, which meet the requirements for climate protection, cost-effectiveness and reliable supplies, if we tackle the challenges together – with industry and logistics moving forward hand in hand.”

Involvement in the “SEAFAR” project

Digitalisation plays a major role in this connection too. The cooperation partners agree that they wish to become involved in the SEAFAR pilot project with their transport services to test partially autonomous inland waterway shipping operations in Germany as soon as the responsible authorities give the go-ahead for this. Dry goods vessels, which HGK Shipping uses to and from Salzgitter, are being refitted with the appropriate technology to allow remote control operations from dry land.

The close cooperation is also designed to help develop new and additional shipping space in the medium term and so meet both the requirements for innovative and sustainable inland waterway shipping and the needs of the steel industry to decarbonise and maintain reliable supplies to an equal degree. Signing the MoU now marks the starting signal for the other projects.

Photo caption



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by (from left) Florian Bleikamp, Head of Chartering Canal of HGK Dry Shipping GmbH, Sandrina Sieverdingbeck, Managing Director DEUMU, and Eike Brünger, Managing Director for Sales and Logistics SZFG. (Copyright: Salzgitter AG / Photographer: Frank Bierstedt)



Joint meeting at the Salzgitter AG Visitor Centre on the occasion of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (from left): Olaf Dewindenant, Head of Scrap Steel Peine; Fabian Gerdes, Head of Customer Logistics SZFG; Eike Brünger, Managing Director for Sales and Logistics SZFG; Sandrina Sieverdingbeck, Managing Director DEUMU; Andreas Lemme, Managing Director HGK Dry Shipping; Steffen Bauer, CEO HGK Shipping; and Florian Bleikamp, Head of Chartering Canal of HGK Dry Shipping. (Copyright: Salzgitter AG / Photographer: Frank Bierstedt)

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.

Salzgitter AG:

Salzgitter AG ranks as one of Germany's leading steel and technology groups. As a pioneer in the circular economy, we focus on sustainable innovation and on transforming products and processes in the business units of Steel Production, Steel Processing, Trading and Technology.

With our "Salzgitter AG 2030" strategy and anchored in the principle of "Pioneering for Circular Solutions", we are setting new benchmarks in the industry. Our aspirations are realized through strong initiatives and programs such as SALCOS® - Salzgitter Low CO2 Steelmaking. Through partnerships and in networks, we are actively driving the process of development towards a circular economy.

With around 25,000 employees worldwide at 150 national and international subsidiaries and associate companies, we live up to our global aims for growth, profitability and our pioneering position. In the financial year 2022, we generated external sales of around € 12 billion, with a crude steel capacity of 7 million tons.

For more information, please go to:

[People, Steel and Technology | Salzgitter AG \(salzgitter-ag.com\)](#)

Contact details:

Contact partner for Salzgitter AG

Thorsten Möllmann
Head of Group Communications and Brand
Phone: +49 5341 21-2300
moellmann.t@salzgitter-ag.de

Olaf Reinecke
Group Press Officer
Phone: +49 5341 21-5350
reinecke.o@salzgitter-ag.de

Contact partner for the HGK Group

Christian Lorenz
HGK Press Spokesperson
Phone: +49 221 390 1190
lorenz.c@hgk.de