

18 September 2023

HGK Shipping places an order for a new gas tanker with special dimensions

Duisburg / Druten (Netherlands). Optimised to deal with shallow water levels, a diesel-electric drive system and an extra-wide design for the vessel – these are the main features of the next gas tanker that HGK Shipping ordered from the Dutch shipyard, De Gerlien Van Tiem, on 15 September. The latest addition to the fleet will once again enable the inland shipping company based in Duisburg to set a new benchmark for the sector. The unconventional dimensions guarantee a particularly high load capacity, even if water levels are low. The “GAS 96” has been developed in close cooperation in line with the requirements of two large chemicals companies in the Netherlands and Germany. The vessel is set to guarantee supplies to both companies from 2025 onwards as part of a long-term charter arrangement.

The “GAS 96” is already the third gas tanker for HGK Shipping, which combines extremely favourable shallow water conditions with a diesel-electric engine. The company is therefore using this to continue its strategic programme of new vessels to provide innovative and sustainable inland waterway shipping services. HGK Shipping was the first company to introduce this combination with an alternative drive system in gas tanker shipping. The latest gas tanker was also fully developed at the company’s own Design Center and this included an appropriate feasibility study. The combination of a large load capacity of 300 tonnes, even if the draught is only 1.20 metres, with a vessel that is 110 metres long and 15 metres wide distinguishes it from everything else that has been operating on the river Rhine up to now. The maximum load capacity is more than 2,500 tonnes.

“The concept and the design of the ‘GAS 96’ are once again consistently geared towards the challenging requirements of the customer with regard to sustainability and having reliable supplies. The design ideally combines the pattern of the ‘GAS 94’ and that of mega-barges, which have already enabled us to prove that we can transport unusual dimensions along inland waterways efficiently and reliably,” says Anke Bestmann, the Managing Director of HGK Gas Shipping GmbH.

The new gas tanker is due to go into service during the fourth quarter of 2025. The hull will be manufactured at a shipyard in Eastern Europe. The final structural work will take place at the De Gerlien Van Tiem shipyard in Druten, Netherlands. Thanks to the power management system that will be installed, the engine output made available will be ideally adapted to the power requirements and this will therefore reduce the fuel consumption and the waste gas emissions. The drive system is also designed to be “future-fuel-ready” and can be retrofitted to accommodate alternative drive and fuel systems. The entire loading system on the new vessel will also

be prepared to possibly transport the hydrogen derivative, ammonia, and it will therefore enable both the charterer and HGK Shipping to cover future transport needs that emerge in connection with the energy revolution.

Photo captions:



Photo: (from the left) Nikolaus Schellenberger, the Head of Fleet Management at HGK Shipping, Eric Rietveld, the Commercial Project Manager at De Gerlien Van Tiem, Tim Gødde, the Director Ship Management and the Managing Director of the Ship Management Business Unit at HGK Shipping, Marcel van Tiem, the Project/Sales Manager at De Gerlien Van Tiem. Source: HGK Shipping



Technical drawing: a 3D ship's drawing of the 'GAS 96'. Source: HGK Shipping

Contact details:

Would you like some more information? You can contact the HGK spokesperson, Christian Lorenz, on +49 (0)221 / 390 11 90 or send an e-mail to: lorenzcz@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.