



ZEABORN Group takes over business operations of Rickmers-Linie and NPC Projects

- **Takeover includes the Rickmers-Linie business with all locations, employees, management and the charter fleet as well as the subsidiaries, including MCC Marine and NPC Projects**

Bremen/Hamburg, 9 February 2017. ZEABORN Group, established in 2013, sets a further milestone in the company's development with the takeover of the business operations and the international organization of Rickmers-Linie, including NPC Projects. In addition to the business of Rickmers-Linie, ZEABORN also takes over the business operations of MCC Marine Consulting & Contracting, which is active as bunker and chartering broker. The corresponding contracts between the Rickmers Group and Zeaborn were signed on 7 February 2017. The execution of the transaction is subject to antitrust clearance.

Rickmers-Linie is one of the world's most renowned companies in the field of ocean transportation of project cargo. In addition to the global liner services of Rickmers-Linie, NPC Projects is a perfect extension to the existing ZEABORN tramp business.

"With the growth of our fleet, we were faced with the challenge of building a global organization. Everyone who knows the shipping industry knows that this is a very challenging task in our time. In this respect, it's a fortune for our development that Rickmers-Linie was available at the right time," explains Jan Hendrik Többe, Managing Partner of ZEABORN.

Together, Zeaborn and Rickmers-Linie (with NPC and MCC) have a team of close to 200 employees and a combined fleet of about 50 multi-purpose vessels, with deadweight capacities (dwt) between 7,500 and 30,000 tonnes, and a combined lifting capacity of up to 700 tonnes.

"Just like us, Rickmers-Linie and NPC Projects are concentrating on the transport of break bulk, heavy lifts and project cargoes. They have an excellent reputation, have close, long-term customer relationships and stand for reliability, quality, innovation and technical competence. With its line-up services and the tramp business of NPC, Rickmers-Linie connects the most important business centers



in the world. In this unique combination, we are now able to offer our customers even more tailor-made transport solutions, "adds Ove Meyer, who is also Managing Partner of ZEABORN.

"Rickmers-Linie gets new powerful shareholders who want to expand their activities in the MPP segment. With ZEABORN, we have the right partners to play an active part in the consolidation of the heavy and MPP sector in a currently difficult market situation, and to offer our customers excellent service, safety and reliability on an economically stable basis, "Ulrich Ulrichs, CEO of Rickmers-Linie, added.

With the takeover of the Rickmers-Linie offices in Belgium, China, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the USA, as well as the extensive agency network, the ZEABORN companies now have a global setup with a strong regional presence and local customer service. Mr Bertram R.C. Rickmers will be privately involved as a minority shareholder in the new owner company of the sold business activities.

ZEABORN Group

The ZEABORN Group is a globally active, integrated shipping company in the MPP segment that covers the entire value chain and meets the requirements of the capital market.

ZEABORN's strategic objective and target is to expand both the commercial and the technically managed fleet, in addition to the basic principles of transparency and fair partnership, and to realize maximum effects in favor of the tonnage operated. In addition to the acquisition of Resale Tonnage, the focus is also on the establishment of strategic partnerships and the expansion of the team in technical and commercial management.



Short vitae of the Managing Partners of Zeaborn

Ove Meyer

Managing Partner of ZEABORN GmbH & Co. KG

With more than 10 years of experience in shipping, Ove Meyer is responsible for the development of operational and commercial activities. Prior to co-founding ZEABORN, Ove Meyer spent nine years developing BBC Chartering as part of the management team. In addition, Economist (Dipl.-Oec.) Ove Meyer has extensive experience in the restructuring of companies, both as a consultant in the conception and in the implementation as an interim manager.

Jan-Hendrik Többe

Managing Partner of ZEABORN GmbH & Co. KG

With his extensive expertise in corporate finance, Jan-Hendrik Többe is responsible for the financing of the Group. Jan-Hendrik Többe has more than 12 years of experience as a consultant with the focus on turnaround management and performance improvement and has successfully managed over 40 projects in the maritime industry. Before co-founding ZEABORN, Jan-Hendrik Többe, who holds an MBA degree, was a partner at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants and PricewaterhouseCoopers.



Short vitae of the Managing Directors of Rickmers-Linie

Ulrich Ulrichs

Chief Executive Officer Rickmers-Linie

Ulrich Ulrichs joined Rickmers-Linie in 2005 and took over responsibility as General Manager Line Management, becoming a Director in 2008. From 1 July 2011, Mr Ulrichs has been Deputy Managing Director of Rickmers-Linie. In July 2012 he was appointed Managing Director. Since 1 May 2014 Mr Ulrichs is Chief Executive Officer of Rickmers-Linie.

Rüdiger Gerhardt

Chief Administrative Officer Rickmers-Linie

Rüdiger Gerhardt joined Rickmers-Linie in 1978. Since 1992 he has been responsible for Finance, Personnel and Administration for Rickmers-Linie and became a Director in 1993. On 1 July 2011, Mr Gerhardt was appointed Managing Director. On 1 May 2014 he became Chief Administrative Officer of Rickmers-Linie.

Thorsten Pulver

Chief Financial Officer Rickmers-Linie

Thorsten Pulver joined Rickmers-Linie in summer 2014 and took over the new position of the Chief Financial Officer in November 2014. Additionally he was appointed Managing Director on 1 January 2015. Mr. Pulver is a chartered engineer (Dipl.-Ing.) and holds an MBA degree from the University of Wales.

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