



PRESS RELEASE

Rantzaу Group expands Essberger Tankers and Dry Cargo - DAL liner service to South Africa sold to Hapag-Lloyd AG

Hamburg, 10. März 2022: The Deutsche Afrika-Linien/John T. Essberger group of companies is adapting its shipping business to the changed market conditions in shipping.

Good future prospects for the shipping business are seen in European chemical tanker shipping, where Essberger is the market leader with its joint venture E&S Tankers and a fleet of currently 33 of its own and 13 tankers of its partner Stolt Nielsen. Essberger Dry Cargo is also ready for expansion and is therefore being vigorously developed further.

The company sees risks for the future in the container shipping sector, where Deutsche Afrika-Linien, as a medium-sized family business, is increasingly coming under pressure from market-dominating mega-carriers.

For this reason, Deutsche Afrika-Linien GmbH & Co KG (DAL), Hamburg, has sold its liner service to South Africa to Hapag Lloyd AG.

With the sale, all employment relationships of the staff employed directly or indirectly in the South-Africa-Service will be transferred to Hapag-Lloyd AG.

This impacts the employees at the Group's headquarters in Hamburg, the DAL agencies in Bremen and the DAL agency in South Africa, as well as the container ship "DAL Kalahari" (6,600 TEU), which is deployed in the South-Africa-Trade as part of a joint service with the partner shipping companies ONE and Maersk.

The managing partners of the Deutsche Afrika-Linie/John T. Essberger group of companies, Dr Eberhart von Rantzaу and Heinrich von Rantzaу, explain the decision:

"The significant increase in consolidation within container shipping in recent years has irrevocably changed the industry and the economic framework conditions. With the increasing challenges in container shipping, as well as in environmental and climate protection, we are facing dependencies and cost disadvantages that we will no longer be able to compensate for in the long term in the South-Africa-Trade."

"For us as a family, the fortune of the entire Group and all the employees working here is our highest priority. In Hapag-Lloyd AG we have found a reliable, strong and sustainable employer that is also based in Hamburg, the city where the Africa-Trade began 175 years ago.



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Now, with the Reederei John T. Essberger, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2024, the company's core competence is coming back into focus."

(The Deutsche Afrika-Linien/John T Essberger group of companies was originally founded in 1924 by John T. Essberger as a tanker shipping company that also operated cargo ships. After the Second World War, Essberger built up Deutsche Afrika-Linien, which he acquired, with services to West, East and South Africa).

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Press contacts

Svante.Domizlaff@rantzau.de +49 40 38016-611