

---

Hamburg, 16 May 2017

## Background Information

### The Shipping Company: Mitsui O.S.K. Lines

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) was founded in Japan in 1884. With its headquarters in Tokyo, it is one of the biggest shipping companies in the world. Some 10,500 staff work for the MOL Group around the globe. Altogether, MOL and its subsidiaries have a fleet of 830 ships, including containerships, bulk freighters, tankers, car transporters, cruise vessels, ferries and tugs.

The MOL container fleet comprises around 100 containerships with a capacity of more than 530,000 TEU. This means that MOL today belongs to the top twelve container lines in the world.

MOL Europe manages services to Asia, Africa, North America and coordinates two regions in Europe and two more in Africa. The regional head office is located in Rotterdam. In Germany MOL has branch offices in Hamburg, Bremen, Dusseldorf and Stuttgart with a total of 100 staff.

At the end of October last year, the three Japanese shipping lines: MOL, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha – “K” Line and Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK) announced the founding of a joint venture pooling their container activities. From 1 July they will be merging their container activities in the joint company. Operational implementation is planned for April next year.

The new company will then hold sixth place among the biggest container shipping lines, with a market share of some seven percent (figures from October 2016, not including newbuildings ordered - source: Alphaliner).

Since 1 April 2017, MOL has been a member of the newly formed container service alliance, sailing as ‘THE Alliance’. In addition to MOL, the other alliance members are Hapag-Lloyd, “K” Line, NYK and Yang Ming. Together deploying 240 ships, they operate 31 services worldwide in these trades: Asia-Europe, North Atlantic and Trans-Pacific, also including the Middle East and Arabian Golf-Red Sea. More than 75 different ports are directly called by ‘THE Alliance’.