



GLOBAL LOGISTICS

Hartmann expands project scope with Europe-Africa link

The German owner has plans to establish additional combined conventional and container liner services but is not yet prepared to divulge any further details

German ship owning and operating group Hartmann is expanding its project liner services from the Pacific Basin into Europe.

Hartmann Project Lines (HPL) will start a Europe-to-West Africa conventional cargo and container service from 19 April with a first southbound sailing from Antwerp, Belgium.

The service will be operated by Duisburg-based MTL (Maritime Transport + Logistik) using three 17,451-dwt multipurpose (MPP) vessels supplied by Intership Navigation. Both MTL and Intership are Hartmann Group companies.

Hartmann says it has nominated liner agents in Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, the UK, France, Portugal, Spain, Mauritania, Ghana and Nigeria. A sailing schedule will be announced soon around the agency listing.

MTL managing director Manfred Lehn says Hartmann is looking at ways to expand the scope of its liner services but will ensure the new service is profitable and adjust it if necessary before taking any further action.

"We have other plans to establish additional combined conventional and container liner services but at this time we are not prepared to divulge any further details," he told TradeWinds.

HPL started operating in May 2012 with a first monthly service linking North America with the Far East and Southeast Asia, providing scheduled sailings from Canada and the US to South Korea, China, Singapore and Australia.

In December, it extended its Asian service to Western Australia by adding links to the east coast, but dropping the US connection.

Lehn says the company found that it was a better option to focus on a regular liner concept than to continue a "worldwide" semi-liner concept.

He added: "Changes in the market conditions made it much more ideal with the tonnage we had engaged to focus on shorter voyages, make quicker turn times and simultaneously focus on a growing market from China to both eastern and western Australia."

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