

#### **Hamburg shipowner/managers christen first vessel**

The christening in Hamburg on September 21, of its first container ship the RHL Argilias, also marked the launch of a new, German, shipowner/management company.

Reederei Hamburger Lloyd, commissioned the 1,700TEU vessel from the Wenchong Shipyard in China and plans to order an additional eight vessels by 2010. The vessel is partially self-sustaining (equipped with 2 x 45 ton cranes) and is stemmed to be time-chartered to Hapag-Lloyd for a 12-month period. A sister ship, the RHL Aqua, is scheduled for delivery in December, from the same shipyard. Managing director and partner of the new company is Hauke Pane, previously a senior partner at Hamburg-based MPC Steamship. For its start-up business plan the company intends to concentrate on container vessels of between 1,000TEU and 5,000TEU which, according to Pane are 'universally deployable' with demand forecast to grow over the next few years. Pane said: 'We are not aiming at reaching every requirement

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out there, like a supermarket. The middle-of-the-range ship sizes are constantly in demand and this area is also our strong point. I want to show just how reliable Hamburger Lloyd can be as a partner.' (C-online)

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