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Hapag-Lloyd tests better networking between shipping company and terminals

New cloud-based approach provides more transparency / Improved processes and efficiency for both sides

As part of a pilot test, Hapag-Lloyd will be the first shipping company to use an innovative, cloud-based stowage-planning software developed by the US supplier XVELA. A cooperation agreement has now been concluded with the partner company based in Oakland, California. As a result, stowage-planning and cargo data of the individual ships in ports will be available in real-time for both the shipping company and the terminal. In this way, the shipping company will be able to see the progress of loading and unloading operations on an ongoing basis and can deploy its ships more efficiently. For terminals, on the other hand, there will be continual transparency regarding the state of stowage planning for an expected ship, which will allow them to allot equipment and staff in a timely and reliable fashion. The aim is to reduce unexpected changes at short notice in the coastal schedule as well as unnecessary waiting times for both sides.

“The more transparency there is throughout the transport chain, the more efficiently everyone involved can make plans for and employ their assets and resources. We anticipate that this new software will give us important operative advantages. Cloud-based solutions such as XVELA can provide us with real-time data, making it possible for us to considerably improve the exchange of information with terminals,” said Jörn Springer, head of Hapag-Lloyd’s Fleet Support Center. “So we’re excited about the pilot test and the advantages it can open up to us.”

Hapag-Lloyd’s Fleet Support Center has existed since 2013. Located in Hamburg, where the shipping company is headquartered, it keeps an eye on the entire fleet of both owned and

chartered vessels. In recent years, the Fleet Support Center's 10-person team and the technology employed there have been able to achieve considerable savings, particularly in vessel fuel consumption. "We are continually searching for additional possibilities for optimizing the processes of the fleet while at sea and in ports. We hope that the innovative approach in stowage planning will provide fresh impetus particularly regarding times in port," Springer added.

Hapag-Lloyd has forged a wide range of partnerships with industry, research and the public sector. Together, they work on innovations in ship technology and measures offering more safety and improved environmental protection.

About Hapag-Lloyd

With a fleet of 177 modern container ships, Hapag-Lloyd is one of the world's leading liner shipping companies. The Company has around 9,500 employees at 353 sites in 117 countries. With the acquisition of CSAV's container business in December 2014, the Hapag-Lloyd fleet offers a total transport capacity of almost one million standard containers (TEU) as well as a container capacity of 1.6 million TEU – including one of the largest and most modern fleets of reefer containers. A total of 122 liner services worldwide ensure fast, reliable connections between all the continents. Hapag-Lloyd is a founding member of the G6 Alliance, one of the largest shipping alliances in the world, and is one of the leading operators in the Transatlantic and Latin America trades.