

HANSA HEAVY LIFT VESSEL SAILS OPEN HATCH THROUGH THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE TO DELIVER GIANT CRANES

HHL Valparaiso is the first vessel to sail open hatch through the Northern Sea Route as it delivers two giant ship-to-shore (STS) cranes from the European to the Far East region of Russia

Hamburg, Germany, Wednesday, 4th January 2017 – HANSA HEAVY LIFT has successfully transported the first-ever ship-to-shore (STS) cranes via the Northern Sea Route (NSR), relocating them from the port of St Petersburg to the port of Vostochny, spanning both the European and Far East regions of Russia.

HHL Valparaiso is the first vessel to sail open hatch through the Northern Sea Route, which is covered by thick ice for most of the year and has a limited window of about two months open to cargo voyages.

This allowed the two cranes, each weighing 820 metric tonnes and measuring 61 metres in height and 92 metres in width, to be shipped partially above and below deck.

“The Northern Sea Route was the only viable option to complete this voyage in the required timeframe,” said Gleb Faldin, Commercial Manager, HANSA HEAVY LIFT.

“In the Arctic there is no room for mistakes. During the passage, the vessel has limited connection and only a few points of shelter.

“It is important to understand the legal framework to navigate the NSR, to plan carefully, to be prepared for the unexpected, and most importantly to have the right team on board the vessel and in the office.”

Faldin added that a two-month delay in the cargo being ready meant that HHL Valparaiso had to be repositioned for the voyage, which was originally planned for HHL Tokyo.

About HANSA HEAVY LIFT

HANSA HEAVY LIFT GmbH specialises in super heavy lift, heavy lift and project cargo, with an increasing focus on transport and installation (T&I) in the subsea oil and gas markets, as well as the offshore windfarm sector.

The company is a world market leader in the heavy lift business and operates a modern fleet of 17 vessels which is one of the youngest fleets in the market. The Team is committed to quality, reliability and a customer focused service. Customers’ cargoes are handled with the highest degree of safety and professionalism worldwide.

HANSA HEAVY LIFT is wholly owned by Oaktree. Oaktree is an international, long-term investor providing financial resources and operational capabilities to support companies in achieving growth and long-term value. It has more than USD 90 billion of assets under management.

HHL Valparaiso travelled from Qingdao, China to St Petersburg via the NSR to load the cranes, and then went back through the NSR a second time to complete the mission, which was accomplished in record time.

Crews had only a few weeks to complete the voyage, as the cargo was loaded in October and had to be delivered to its destination by late November before the route completely froze over.

Other challenges included limited space aboard the HHL Valparaiso, which holds Ice Class E3 equivalent to Russian Arc.4 (Finnish- Swedish Ice Class 1A).

Additionally, the cranes were not designed to be lifted, requiring careful planning from all parties involved in the move, as well as strong engineering expertise.

“The Northern Sea Route is an important alternative that can save weeks from a voyage, but to be successful you need careful planning and engineering, the right equipment, capable vessels, and experienced crews,” said Heinrich Nagrelli, Project & Transport Engineer, HANSA HEAVY LIFT.

“Due to the STS’s very high centre of gravity (CoG) at 30 metres above deck and 70 metres air draft, as well as draft restriction of 7.7 metres, a careful and detailed plan was needed from the start.

“This included a load spreading design and a structural analysis of the hatch covers and lower hold, a lifting stability assessment, a lifting simulation, fulfilment of Flag State requirements (open hatch, visibility, arctic weather conditions, COLREGs*), and the approval of the Russian Maritime Register of Shipping, as well as the arranging of ice breaker assistance.”

ZAO ‘SMM’, a leading manufacturer of heavy port handling equipment in Russia, was charterer of the HHL Valparaiso and in charge of overall project management as well as the transportation of the two STS cranes.

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“The high professionalism of ZAO ‘SMM’ and good mutual cooperation with HANSA HEAVY LIFT ensured the successful and timely implementation of this project,” said Mikhail Skripchenko, Project Manager at ZAO ‘SMM’.

“Our company has proven expertise in the area of logistics for the transport of heavy cranes and other oversized equipment via Russian inland waterways, as well as the Northern Sea Route.

“We are proud to add this particular project to our list of unique projects executed by ZAO ‘SMM’, which has no analogues in Russia or abroad.”

All HANSA HEAVY LIFT vessels can travel along sea routes with an ice thickness of up to 0.8 metres.

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More information at hansaheavylift.com

*International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

ENDS

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