

# THE **BBC** NAVIGATOR

**FIRST LAKERMAX**  
vessels in service

**OFFSHORE** shuttle

**40 YEARS** OF BRIESE







# BBC LEER

Approaching Cuxhaven in September



# NEW SHIPS COMING IN



Dear readers,

at the time of writing these lines, the fourth LakerMax vessel, the BBC DUBAI is about to be delivered, with further eleven vessels in the making. We presented the BBC LEER to clients and colleagues in Cuxhaven, had a festive naming ceremony for the BBC HOUSTON in her namesake port, and the BBC GENOA has been captured passing by the Shanghai City Skyline.

After having talked a lot about this new vessel generation, it makes us proud and happy to finally be able to present the vessels to our clients, partners and employees in service and reality. BBC LEER, BBC HOUSTON and BBC GENOA have performed very well during their first voyages and have already shown off with their enormous cargo capacity, which makes them the most efficient vessels of their class.

At the time this edition will have been published, the 516th Gallimarkt will be celebrated in Leer, our homeport. A traditional event in our annual agenda, which we dearly missed in the Corona-years, and which has re-emerged since 2022 to live up to a new glory. This year, the joint Gallimarkt-party of Briese and BBC will be celebrated in the spirit of the 40-year-jubilee of Briese Schifffahrt.

We take this opportunity to congratulate our colleagues and friends at Briese on this jubilee. Since its inception in 1984, Briese Schifffahrt has developed into one of Germany's largest and most important ship owners, contributing to the role of Leer in East Frisia as one of the most important shipping clusters in Germany.

Representative for the many employee anniversaries we celebrate this year are the ones of Günther Siemens, Denis Bandura and Lars Schønnemann. They have been an integral part of the global BBC team for 25 and 20 years respectively. We thank you for your loyalty and trust in the company and look forward to many more years with you.

Enjoy the read!

*Ulrich Ulrichs*

Ulrich Ulrichs  
CEO, BBC Chartering

## IMPRINT/IMPRESSUM

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All information published in this brochure has been thoroughly researched. Data is believed to be correct but cannot be guaranteed.

**Editing & Layout**  
BBC Chartering, Marketing, Leer

**Photos**  
BBC Chartering Marketing Dept. /  
Photo Archive, Project Division, Freepik,  
Flying Focus, BlueWater BREB, Briese  
Schifffahrt, Markus Grabsch/Elbreklame,  
Freddy Hinojosa/LFHCreative

**Printed in Germany by** Druckzentrum  
Neumünster GmbH







# BBC HOUSTON

Festive christening in the port of Houston

The Champagne bottle broke on the first attempt, after godmother Daniela Pena Kopfensteiner traditionally wished the vessel “fair winds and following seas” in a ceremony held at the Manchester Terminal in the port of Houston in the presence of clients, business partners and colleagues of BBC Chartering. Prior to the naming ceremony, the BBC HOUSTON had concluded her maiden voyage from China to New Orleans, Louisiana, delivering a load of air coolers and accessories. The BBC HOUSTON subsequently called several berths in Houston

to pick up cargo before proceeding to the Manchester Terminal for completion cargo and the ceremony. Following the celebrations, the BBC HOUSTON immediately commenced her next voyage, with Kolkata, India being her next destination.

“Naming the BBC HOUSTON in her namesake port after completion of her maiden voyage felt like more than the right thing to do.” said Tim Kopfensteiner, President and CEO of Houston-based BBC Chartering USA LLC. “It was a real pleasure



The godmother together with the entire crew in front of the BBC HOUSTON.



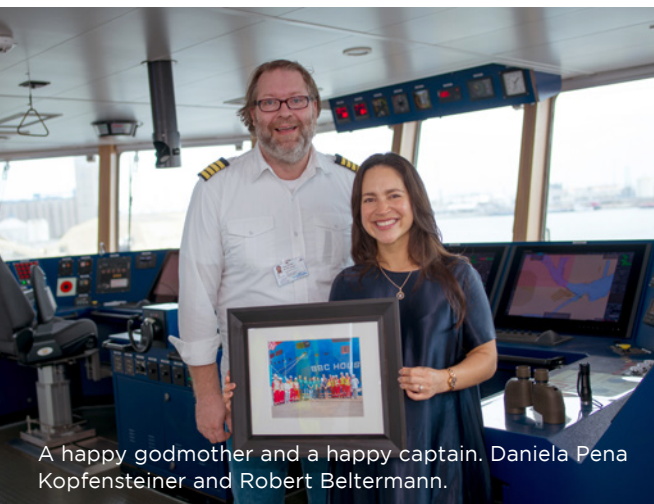


The BBC HOUSTON captured upon arrival at the Manchester Terminal.

to finally see this ground-breaking vessel for ourselves, and being able to show it to our customer friends and partners made us really proud."

"It was an honor to be a part of this celebration and I hope she will serve and protect her crew for many years to come.", said Daniela Pena Kopfensteiner, the godmother of the BBC HOUSTON, who works as a Chartering Broker at BBC Chartering USA.

*All photos by: Freddy Hinojosa/LFHCreative*



A happy godmother and a happy captain. Daniela Pena Kopfensteiner and Robert Beltermann.



Tim Kopfensteiner, President of BBC Chartering USA handing over a memento to the ship, represented by Capt. Robert Beltermann.



# FIRST PORT CALL

of MV BBC LEER  
in Germany





It was a bright, sunny, and warm late summer day when a crowd of 150 guests, including clients, partners and employees of BBC, representatives from Briese, BREB and BlueWaterBREB and representatives of the City of Cuxhaven and the port, gathered at the BlueWaterBREB-Terminal in Cuxhaven to give the BBC LEER, the first newbuilding of the “LakerMax”-

series, a proper welcome on her first call at a German port.

The BBC LEER had arrived at Cuxhaven around noon on 16 September and berthed at berth no. 8 at the BlueWaterBREB Terminal. Discharge operations commenced, and accompanied by a close coordination process between customer, terminal and our operations

department, the cargo, which consisted of a full load of windmill blades from Mexico, was discharged well in time to allow for thorough preparation of the welcome event.

The event on 20 September kicked off with a welcome speech by our CEO Ulrich Ulrichs, followed by Port Manager Knut Kokkelink and Jürgen



## PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

Please check our website and watch the whole video of our new LakerMax-series.

*BBC LEER at the BlueWaterBREB Terminal in Cuxhaven shortly after her arrival. Photo: BlueWaterBREB*



von Ahnen, Head of the Agency for Economic Development of Cuxhaven, who represented the mayor. Two more speeches by Enak Ferlemann and Stefan Wenzel, Parliamentary State Secretary with the Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection followed. Both are Members of the Bundestag having their electoral districts in Cuxhaven.

After the speeches it was time for everyone to get on board the BBC LEER and take a closer look at the new vessel. The forward hatch covers were closed with the aft hatch covers open, allowing for a view into the cargo hold with tween deck pontoons put in place to demonstrate the versatility of the triple decker. The crane hooks of

the forward crane were lowered and secured to give visitors an impression of the size of these crucial parts which play an important role in cargo handling. A visit to the bridge was also part of the tour after which everyone was invited to enjoy the barbecue offered.



**Special guests at the welcome event**

*(from left): Jürgen von Ahnen (Agency for Economic Development of Cuxhaven), Enak Ferlemann (Member of German Parliament), Alexandra Brandt (Niedersachsen Ports), Knut Kokkelink (Niedersachsen Ports), Capt. Mytov (BBC LEER), Wibke Ehlers (BREB), Wilke Briese. Photo: Markus Grabsch/Elbreklame*











# HIDING BEHIND THE STORM

In November 2023 BBC Project Division started to work on a shipment of 10 reels from Kalundborg (DK) and Rosyth (UK) to Bata, Equatorial Guinea. Beginning of January 2024, BBC was nominated by our client DeepOcean for this project. An empty carousel from Rotterdam to Bintan Island was added to this interesting voyage.

For DeepOcean it was very important to meet the given loading dates, as the cargo had to be placed in time on berth at Bata, so that the specialized construction vessel MV “Edda Freya” could start installation work in time. The best fit for this project was BBC Amber. Due to stowage reasons, we started with the loading of the carousel in Rotterdam. In meantime DeepOcean informed us, that one unit got no road transport permission from Great Yarmouth to Rosyth. To help our client, we decided to add the port Great Yarmouth as a 3rd loading port for DeepOcean to load this unit prior proceeding to Kalundborg and Rosyth.

On this shipment, we very much had to focus on the weather conditions not only for the safety of the crew and vessel but also for the deck cargo. Bad weather conditions caught us already prior berthing at Great Yarmouth. The harbors

tugboat was not strong enough to get our vessel safely alongside. The berthing operation had to be suspended and the ship was brought back to anchorage. Already at this point of time, we had the cable tower and basket to Bintan Island on deck. After 1,5 days the weather conditions finally improved.

After loading in Kalundborg, the vessel stopped at Gothenburg for bunkering and continued her trip to Rosyth. While we were alongside in Northern England, the weather was fine but the forecast already showed that our Biscay passage will become a challenge. For the safety of everybody, the ships command together with the OPS department decided to stay two days longer in Rosyth allowing the conditions in Biscay to improve. On March 22nd we slowly headed towards English Channel to be ready when a “good” weather windows will open up.

The approach, strategy and execution of vessels command was well set. On Feb 26th, the vessel entered Biscay and first had to deviate north to keep clear of the slowly improving condition. One day later on Feb 27th, the vessel successfully passed Biscay and after some still rough hours alongside the Portuguese coast, we safely departed from Europe towards

Bata for discharging of the reels and accessories.

As per our crew: “The waves were more than 6 meters. But vessel and crew strongly withstood all weather challenges, under sensitive guidance of our Captain!” During the booking of this cargo, maritime news also reported an attack on a tanker north Principe Island (São Tomé Country). Therefore, it has been agreed to sail around São Tomé Island and approach Bata from the south.

After being safely alongside in Bata, the discharging operation offered more challenges. The reels not only had to be placed in between fixed stationary harbor cranes but also in a specific order to match our clients requirements. Aforesaid sequence requested quite some shifting activities of the vessel alongside the berth enabling us to reach the different onshore storage positions.

The crew reported: “On arrival in port Bata (Equatorial Guinea) we realized that the ordeal was not over. Strong swell requested a lot of attention and efforts from us to safely land the cargo. The constant shifting operation exhausted the crew as well. Nevertheless, we all endured the difficulties given to us. All cargo was





discharged in safe working practice. The good news was, that we were warmly welcomed by local authorities, agent and inspector, showing and telling us about their country. “

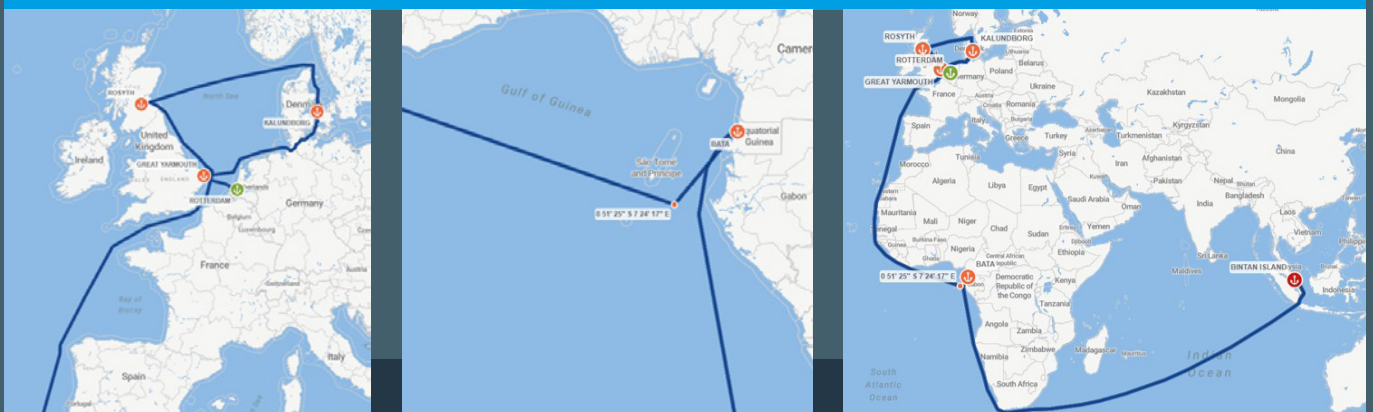
After vessels departure, the client performed our “lessons learned and performance evaluation” which was completed with the highest rating and compliments for the performance of the BBC Amber crew.

*We thank Master Dmitry Kolesnikov, Operator Jan Hegeler and his entire crew for their professional work and top performance!*

VOYAGE 1117029

DeepOcean	Reels	Okume & Ceiba Fields in Block G
Passder Lars	Carousel	
Voyage		
Rotterdam	01.02.24	04.02.24
Great Yarmouth	05.02.24	07.02.24
Kalundborg	09.02.24	12.02.24
Gothenburg	12.02.24	13.02.24
Rosyth	15.02.24	22.02.24
Bata	09.03.24	19.03.24
Bintan island	05.04.24	08.04.24

Voyage map 1-3





# THE OFFSHORE SHUTTLE

All started with a voyage of 22 empty reels and 4.500mt pipes for the offshore industry from Asia to the UK and Norway. And sometimes the Universe says, “never change a running system”.

## Part 1

While the BBC Xingang was on the way to Europe to deliver the reels and pipes, the BBC Project Division booked with offshore EPC Saipem a voyage of subsea equipment from Nigg, UK to their vessel VM “Saipem 3000”.

Fun Fact: We had been carrying this cargo already from Asia to the UK on our BBC RUSHMORE. Normally you would think, this would make the story easy, but it was the opposite. This trip from Asia to the UK had been taken over from a competitor, together with the technical planning. From our point of view, planned lashing was a little more than needed and we optimized same for the voyage of BBC Xingang. This optimizing idea did not work out, after 3 weeks of almost daily meetings we found a compromise.

The next question was where to find the MV “Saipem 3000”? The client kept it open, if we meet her in Dakar or maybe en route in Las Palmas. Finally BBC Xingang has been ordered to Almeria in Spain, where the S3000 was stuck in the yard. After a few days of discussions and investigations, whether the cargo can be discharged to berth, or if the BBC Xingang has to wait for the S300 to complete her yard stay and take the cargo directly, the cargo was finally discharged to berth.

## Part 2

While the BBC Xingang was on the way to Nigg for the above voyage, The BBC Project Division booked cargo for offshore EPS Subsea7. A reel, an umbilical basket and other subsea equipment from Dusavik and Kalundborg have been schedule for Dakar. Having the BBC Xingang voyage to

Almeria in mind, the was the perfect fit to perform also this new voyage, which has been completed by another pipe cargo from Antwerp to Libreville. From a project managing point of view it was a much less complicated job.

## Part 3

The initial planning for voyage 1 was containing 2 offshore frames, which haven't been loaded. These two frames have been still resting in Nigg and needed a lift to Dakar. As we said in the beginning; never change a running system. Saipem booked these frames with BBC and clearly asked to perform this voyage with BBC Xingang.

The technical planning ashore was again a bit more complicated then expected, but much faster than on voyage one.





shore crew. It's a just normal way of business, that things change and have to be adjusted, but his help was much appreciated.

One of the most interesting moments was the discharging of HL units on DP3 Supplier during last call in Dakar. It was a new level of cooperation between 4 parties - 2nd Officer on ballast, Ch. Officer on deck of supplier, DP operator, and our Crane driver. Prior actual discharging all engaged parties had a conversation, where was discussed main attention required points. Main challenge was that the position for HL units was not only marked, but also pre-welded with stoppers. So the gap was about 5cm only, which is actually not too much, when we are talking about ship-to-ship cargo ops.

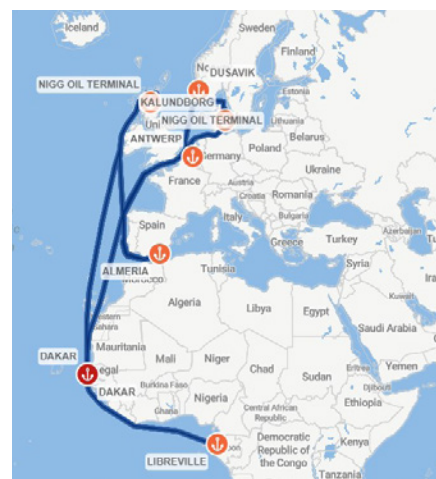
So, during the tool box meeting everyone explained his point of view, regarding most complicated moments, because positioning of HL unit should be done without any stops (due to specific work of brakes in our type of crane). Captain Alex Chernov and Chief Officer Alex Ivanenko approved a plan and we proceeded with the discharging. Supplier's crew was also engaged under C/O command. It was decided to use 10t rachets as a direction and tug lines. Main point was that everyone should work simultaneously and synchronized from the beginning and until zero load on the hook.

The performance of all parties was on high level and cargo operations were completed without any notes from any

side. We are looking forward for new interesting challenges and will be happy to work with those companies in future.

All 3 voyages required high HSEQ standards, a valid CMID certification of the BBC Xingang and each time fresh re-certification of the lifting and lashing material. After such projects it is a BBC standard procedure to require lessons learned and a performance evaluation from the clients, which has been assessed with the highest rating and compliments for the performance of the BBC Xingang crew. It also shows again the professional work style and cooperation of BBC operations, BBC technical department, Briese ISM and Briese inspection.

*We thank Master Nikita Tcymbalov, Operator Kristina Harms, Master Alex Chernov and their entire crew(s) for their professional work and performance!*



On the way up to Nigg, an intermediate stop was planned in Flushing to start the first preparations for the loading in Nigg. Again the final discharging location, except the port of Dakar, was not 100%. Different berth options and discharging to offshore barges have been discussed. The final decision turned then into discharging to offshore barges.

2nd officer of BBC Xingang Anton Litvinov said: First of all it was a pleasant experience to work with companies that have that high standards in safety and performance. We took and shared some lessons in organization of toolbox meetings and cooperation between vessel and shore. I would also like to thank and appreciate our Port Captain Mr. Robert Muhr, whose knowledge and experience was invaluable during meetings with

VOYAGE 1133078

Saipem	Subsea equipment	Tortue Project
Nigg, UK	15.11.23	19.11.23
Almeria	26.11.23	03.12.23
Almeria		

VOYAGE 1133079

Subsea7 SG PAM	Reels + equipment pipes	
Antwerp	07.12.23	10.12.23
Dusavik	12.12.23	13.12.23
Kalundborg	14.12.23	16.12.23
Dakar	26.12.23	27.12.23
Libreville	03.01.24	05.01.24

VOYAGE 1133080

Saipem	Offshore frames	Tortue Project
Flushing	20.01.24	22.01.24
Nigg, UK	24.01.24	26.01.24
Dakar	05.02.24	10.02.24



# OFFICE changes

New office with focus on our bulk business

Hi there! Today we introduce you to our new colleague Anastasios Karagiannis. Anastasios has joined BBC Chartering as Chief Chartering Officer – Dry Bulk Division as of 1 April 2024, and took over responsibility for the fleet of handysize bulkers within BBC Chartering. We currently have seven vessels of this type and size, with two more coming in 2025. Also, with Anastasios we are adding a new office at Ballindamm 4-5 in Hamburg. The Hamburg office is the 31st office in our global network.

“When this segment of our business started to develop over the past few years, we realized that this shipping

sector, which follows its own habits and procedures, is more volatile and needs a specialist with a grasp of the market.” said Ulrich Ulrichs, CEO of BBC Chartering.

“I am excited to now be part of and develop the handysize business of BBC Chartering further. It is a very good complement to the multipurpose project cargo activities of the company and we will offer the same quality service to our bulk cargo clients with our modern handysize fleet.” Anastasios Karagiannis, Chief Chartering Officer – Dry Bulk Division added.

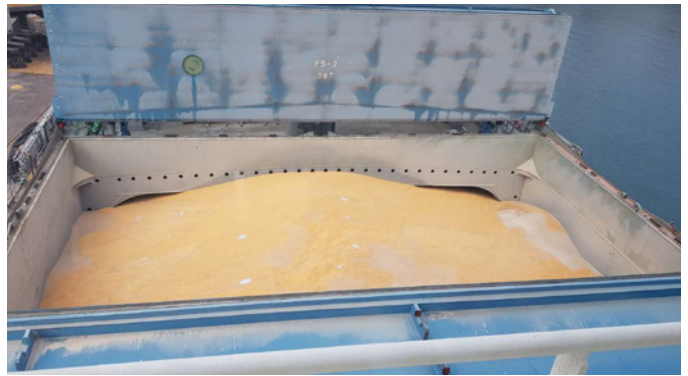


Anastasios Karagiannis



Photo: freepik.com





EMMA JANNEKE

# MALA Award

## All India Maritime and Logistics Awards „MALA 2024”

We are happy to announce that we have won the “Shipping Line of the Year - Projects / Breakbulk Operator” Award at the 14th Edition of All India, “Maritime and Logistics Awards 2024 (MALA)”. Our colleague Ibrahim Khan was happy to accept the prize and so were we. Well done! Thanks to the organizers and to everyone who voted for us. We see this award as a recognition of our continuous commitment to the Indian market.





# RECENT cargo references



**BBC GENOA**  
in Shanghai







# ANNIVERSARY TIME

## around the world

What milestones... You have all contributed your enthusiasm and strength to BBC over the last 20 to 25 years and have contributed a lot to the prosperity of our company with your knowledge. All colleagues rely on your experience and you are also open to the different needs of your colleagues. This is what sets you apart every day.

Thank you very much and congratulations on your anniversaries!



Günther Siemens  
BBC Leer

Chief Operations Officer of BBC Leer  
*since 2018*

Günther Siemens joined BBC Chartering in 1999, in the early days of the company, having passed his apprenticeship with Briese Schifffahrt. BBC Chartering had just relocated the head office from Bremen to Leer.

Günther has had a couple of different jobs and positions in the company, steps that led him to the position of the Chief Operations Officer. Asked what he values most in his work at BBC he said "There is an incredible team spirit in the company. Colleagues collaborate and share their knowledge and expertise amongst each other for the benefit of clients, colleagues, and the company."



Denis Bandura  
BBC Dubai

Managing Director of BBC Dubai  
*since 2017*

Also Denis Bandura has been with BBC Chartering for already twenty-five years. Having celebrated his 50th birthday this summer means that he has spent half of his life as an BBC employee. Leading our team in Dubai as Managing Director of BBC Chartering Mideast DMCCO since many years, he can truly be regarded as one of the company's mainstays.

Like others in leading management roles within the companies, Denis spent a few years at the BBC Chartering head office in Leer, before moving to Dubai and developing our presence in the region.





Managing Director of BBC Singapore  
Head of Asia Region *since 2011*

Lars began his journey with us in 2004 at APC in Singapore, the joint venture between BBC and Clipper. APC became BBC Chartering Singapore in 2009. In 2006, Lars Schønnemann relocated to Leer, and worked as Chartering Manager at the Chartering Department at our head office.

He moved back to Singapore in 2011 to assume the role of Managing Director of BBC Chartering Singapore.

*"Time flies when you enjoy what you do. Especially when you have such a great team to work with. This in combination with the product we have on offer makes it the best job I can think of."*



# SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY







To support the maritime business sector with young and talented professionals, Captain Roelf Briese has spearheaded initiatives to promote maritime education and training, working with industry stakeholders to create endowed professorial and university teaching positions at Emden/Leer University of Applied Sciences.

Briese Schiffahrt's success lies in its strategic focus on specialized vessels. The company has moved away from the tough competition in container shipping and has carved out a niche in the heavy lift sector. With a fleet of more than 120 vessels and a global network supported by Briese Chartering and BBC Chartering & Logistics, the company has established itself as a leader in maritime transport solutions. However, success has come with challenges. The company has experienced economic downturns, market fluctuations, and fierce competition. But these obstacles encouraged the management of the Briese Schiffahrt and its team to persist, innovate, and overcome the crisis more than ever.

Today, Briese Schiffahrt stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through vision, hard work, and a pursuit of perfection. Unlike more specialized businesses, Briese's versatile fleet and wide range of activities within the Group provide significant market advantages. Additionally, Briese's partnership with the globally operating BBC Chartering grants it access to cargo and connections with cargo owners worldwide, enabling it to fulfill its obligations in the best possible way.

As the company celebrates its 40th anniversary, Captain Roelf Briese looks back on the journey with pride and optimism. His son CEO Wilke Briese together with CFO Frank Dreyer are confidently running the company as it moves into a future where Briese Schiffahrt will remain faithful to its mission and tradition, but ready for constant innovation and growth.

With gratitude for the past and excitement for the future, they strive to push boundaries, exceed expectations, and write the next chapter of Briese Schiffahrt's success story. And of course, without the team, they would be nothing.

The positive development of Briese Group could only be achieved with great fortune, and with the help of employees both from the administration on land and the crews on board. The dedication, reliability, and corporate identity of our colleagues in the company are exceptional.

The Briese family would like to express a big gratitude and respect to the employees for many years of reliability, inspiration, trust, commitment, and loyalty. Without joint efforts, growth and success would not have been possible.

Looking forward to more years of success, innovation, and shared accomplishments. Thank you for being an essential part of our history and our future.

Happy 40th anniversary  
to Briese Schiffahrt!

From one man's passion to a company with 2,500 employees worldwide. This story begins with Roelf Briese, the driving force behind Briese Schiffahrt. It is an example of how one man believed in his dream and was able to bring it to life - into a company that turned into a family business and became a leader in the maritime market.

Born in the fishing village of Ditzum near Leer, Roelf Briese began his maritime journey early, becoming a captain at the age of 23 and later completing an academic degree in technical ship management, navigation, naval architecture and mathematics. After working as a naval architect and Captain on a shipyard, he became a professor at the Nautical college. In 1984 Mr. Roelf Briese established the company - Briese Schiffahrts GmbH & Co. KG.



# UPCOMING events

We look forward to seeing you soon at one of our booths



## Gallimarkt

October 2024

Leer, Germany

## Breakbulk Middle East

10-11 February 2025

DWTC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## Intermodal

22-24 April 2025

São Paulo Expo, São Paulo, Brazil

## Breakbulk Europe

13-15 May 2025

Rotterdam Ahoy, Rotterdam, Netherlands



More detailed information on forthcoming events can be found on our website: [bbc-chartering.com](https://bbc-chartering.com)



# BBC GENOA

passing the Oriental Pearl  
Tower in Shanghai



The next issue of **THE BBC NAVIGATOR** is scheduled for Q1-2025



# BUILDING THE FLEET FOR THE FUTURE

We are building the next generation of multipurpose heavy-lift vessels. From 2024 onwards we are receiving fifteen triple-deckers. With more space and stowage options under deck for your valuable and sensitive freight. With more unobstructed space on deck and the ability to sail with open hatches. Equipped with two Liebherr 250-mt shipboard cranes.

[bbc-chartering.com](http://bbc-chartering.com)

