



Press release
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Sogestran acquires the inland liquid bulk transport subsidiary of Reederei Jaegers

Yesterday, the German company Reederei Jaegers and the French group Sogestran finalized a transaction project: the Sogestran Group will acquire Reederei Jaegers GmbH, specialized in inland waterway liquid bulk transport, in the first quarter of 2025.

This transaction will make Sogestran Group the European leader among inland shipping operators for liquid bulk cargo, with a significant presence on major European waterways, over 200 units (self-propelled barge, push boats, and barges), and more than 500 crew members.

Through this acquisition, Sogestran Group enhances its ability to offer European-scale inland transport solutions to international clients. It will also strengthen its position to advocate for inland transport priorities at the European level with administrations and authorities.

For Pascal Girardet, CEO of Sogestran:

“We are very proud to acquire Reederei Jaegers GmbH. This transaction is the result of a long-standing relationship with Gunther Jaegers, built on mutual respect and esteem, and grounded in our many years of collaboration through the CFT Gaz and Asphatrans joint ventures.

The ambition I have for Sogestran is to build a European group serving a more sustainable economy. This acquisition is therefore strategic for us. It will allow us to expand our inland waterway transport offering on a European scale to better serve our customers.

The acquisition is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2025. Reederei Jaegers GmbH will then be integrated into the Sogestran Group. We will operate as one entity, sharing the same values: trust, agility, pride, and commitment.”

For Dr. Gunther Jaegers, Managing Partner Reederei Jaegers Group:

“After careful review and consideration, the owner families Jaegers and Valentin have decided to sell the company to the French Sogestran Group in order to fully focus on their gas activities with the Dutch Chemgas Shipping B.V.

We are convinced that the French family business has the best prerequisites to carry on our vision and values that we have built up and to lead the company into a successful future.”

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Complementary markets to become the leader in inland waterway transport of hazardous liquid bulk in Europe.

The Sogestran Group is the leader in inland waterway freight transport in France, operating on the Seine, Rhône, and Loire rivers through its various subsidiaries, including CFT - Compagnie Fluviale de Transport. Specialized in hazardous goods, containers, heavy loads, dry bulk, and non-ADN liquid bulk, the Group is preparing for future markets (liquid CO₂, bio and e-fuels such as hydrogen, methanol & ammonia, new chemical products, and Class 7 materials).

The Sogestran Group has been expanding at the European level in recent years, responding to the trend of deindustrialization in France. In 2023, 20% of the inland transport division's revenue was generated in Europe through its subsidiaries Camaro (containers on the Rhine), CFT Danube (fuel transport between Austria and Serbia), CFT Luxembourg (biofuels in Belgium), and its joint ventures Asphatrans (bitumen transport on the Rhine, a 50/50 partnership with Reederei Jaegers) and LNG Shipping (transport of conventional fuels and LNG in the ZARA region, a 50/50 partnership with Victrol).

Reederei Jaegers GmbH, for its part, is a major player in European inland shipping, specializing in the transport of mineral oils, bitumen, and chemical products on the Rhine and its connected canals.

A geographical complementarity and aligned positioning

Both groups are recognized for their expertise and have a solid reputation. Each has its own fleet, complemented by access to chartered services.

Their complementary geographical positions and shared vision of operational excellence, quality, and CSR allow them to serve highly demanding industrial clients who are leaders in refining, bio-refining, chemicals, petrochemicals, or pharmaceuticals, with logistics flows across various European rivers.

An acquisition process between two family-owned groups that have been long-time partners

The two companies have been long-time partners through the joint ventures CFT Gaz (gas transport on the Rhône) and Asphatrans (bitumen transport on the Rhine).

Under the leadership of the majority shareholder Gunther Jaegers, the Jaegers and Valentin families, historical shareholders of the Reederei Jaegers Group, decided to sell their inland liquid division, Reederei Jaegers GmbH, while retaining the Chemgaz division.

Thanks to the long-standing and trusted relationship between Gunther Jaegers and Pascal Girardet, a direct negotiation began in mid-2022 to explore the opportunity of acquiring the Reederei Jaegers GmbH division.

The other division of the Reederei Jaegers Group, Chemgas, focused on inland and maritime transport of liquefied gases, is not part of the acquisition.

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About the Companies

The Sogestran Group specializes in inland and maritime transport of complex, high-value goods and industrial logistics. The Group is organized into four activities: inland transport (nearly 30% of the Group's revenue in 2023), maritime transport (over 50% of the 2023 revenue), multimodal transport (12% of the 2023 revenue), and industrial services (7% of the 2023 revenue).

A family-owned group created, owned, and led by the Girardet family, Sogestran is guided by a reasoned development strategy based on three key principles: growing by consolidating the Group, adapting to market needs, and focusing mainly on long-term contracts.

The Group owns its inland and maritime fleet as well as its industrial warehouses. It designs, builds, operates, maintains, and crews its inland and maritime vessels.

In 2023, the Group employed nearly 1,000 people in France and North-Western Europe, generating a revenue of 352 million euros.

The Group's ambition, which drives its actions and positions it for the future, is: To build a European group serving a more sustainable economy.

This ambition is reflected in its commitment to innovation: 15% of revenue is reinvested into new units or into the search for new fuels and propulsion systems.

This ambition is also reflected in its corporate social responsibility strategy and decarbonization plan, which is based on three pillars: Better design, better consumption, better operation.

Reederei Jaegers is a shipping company specialized in inland waterway transport, offering uninterrupted transport solutions from the North Sea to the Black Sea.

Since its founding in 1919, the shipping company has distinguished itself through its safety, quality, and reliability. As a family-owned business, it takes to heart its responsibility towards its employees, society, and the environment.

The company ensures the reliable and secure transport of various types of goods, such as gasoline, middle distillates, heavy fuel oil, and chemicals.

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