

PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Columbia Shipmanagement Ltd and Seatrans AS agree strategic Shipmanagement tie-up**

Columbia Shipmanagement Ltd has continued its recent expansion by agreeing a strategic partnership with the highly respected Norwegian owner/operator Seatrans AS.

The joint company will be named Stödig Ship Management AS and will operate out of Seatrans' existing offices in Bergen Norway. All staff will remain and be employed in the company.

“In Columbia Shipmanagement we recognise the particular expertise and skill sets associated with managing ships in the hard chemical trades and other special tonnage operation and management. Stödig Ship Management has that expertise which we can build upon with existing and new client opportunities” said Mark O’Neil, President and CEO of Columbia.

“It also opens the door to the Scandinavian and North European Offshore and Energy sectors which are crying out for alternative quality management service providers able to bring in levels of digital optimisation, scalability and a variety of platform services” he added. “Stödig will also provide a centre of excellence for our environmental, green technology and decarbonization efforts where Scandinavia has been traditionally seen as the market leading geographical region for these issues.”

Gisle Rong, who will continue in his existing role as Managing Director of Stödig commented “In Columbia we have a partner who not only recognises and respects the Scandinavian market and culture, but also enables us to achieve economies of scale, digitalisation and investment in support services which we could not previously have considered.” He added “We are determined to continue to develop our technical management and crewing services for chemical tankers, RORO, offshore/energy as well as bulkers and product tankers.”

“Our knowledge and experience with Seatrans adds 50 years of quality and customer focus to the co-operation. Our late efforts with implementing rotorsails for Sea-Cargo and close co-operation with Seatrans Chemical Tankers on port efficiency and new types of cargo, enables us to work with customers who share our values and ideas of a modern and sustainable shipping industry.”

Norman Schmiedl, Managing Director of Columbia Blue and Director Crewing, a key facilitator in the tie-up said “I am extremely excited by this collaboration. Two organisations of the highest quality providing a world class service in the stainless-steel chemical sector and also including Seatrans' crewing network in Romania, Bulgaria and Poland. “

Stödig will become operational from beginning of May 2021.

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