

BOXSHIPS

Hamburger Lloyd books 4,600-teu pair at Shanghai Shipyard

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Reederei Hamburger Lloyd (RHL) — the containership-owning and managing company set up last year by Harald Block, Christian Olearius and Hauke Pane — has ordered a pair of 4,600-teu new-buildings in China.

The two wider-than-panamax vessels, costing about \$85m each, will be delivered by Shanghai

Shipyard in May and July 2011.

The vessels, provisionally named the *RHL Concordia* and *RHL Conscientia*, are in addition to the Hamburg-based company's orderbook of five 5,100-teu panamaxes on order in China.

RHL is believed to be the first chartering owner to have booked this type of 37-metre-beam, 4,600-teu vessel in China. The ships are said to have a very shall-

ow maximum draught of 12.5 metres and a good intake of 3,600 teu when containers are loaded to 14 tonnes.

The order was placed earlier this summer but only announced last week in Hamburg by China State Shipbuilding Corp (CSSC), the Shanghai yard's parent.

None of RHL's post-panamax or panamax vessels are believed to have charters yet. The panamaxes

will be built at Jiangnan Changxing Shipyard, another CSSC facility, during 2009 and 2010.

The first three 5,100-teu ships were initially booked by Block's KG (limited partnership) entity, Hansa Hamburg Shipping International, before RHL was set up.

RHL's main partners are Block, Olearius and Pane. Olearius is the main board member of German independent private bank MM

Warburg & Co and its shipping arm, Atalanta. Pane is a former managing director of MPC.

Hamburger Lloyd also took control of five 1,700-teu new-buildings from the former Reederei Karl Schluter (RKS) fleet not already assigned to other managers when the company was sold to shipmanagement and KG group Norddeutsche Vermoegen (NVA).