

## HAPAG-LLOYD-UASC MERGER WINS FURTHER MAJOR INDUSTRY AWARD

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WFW is delighted to announce that a deal the firm advised on has been named Deal of The Year at the Lloyd's List Global Awards 2017. The merger of Hapag-Lloyd and United Arab Shipping Company ("UASC") saw the two companies unite to become one of the five largest container shipping lines in the world, with 237 vessels and a combined turnover of approximately US\$12bn. This is the second major industry award the transaction has won, following its Marine Money accolade earlier in 2017, reinforcing the firm's reputation as a leading legal advisor in the global maritime space.

For their involvement in the merger, WFW advised a group of 27 international and local banks acting as financiers under a highly complex matrix of facilities, involving bilateral and syndicated, secured and unsecured, debt financing, Islamic financing and leasing facilities. Showcasing WFW's global excellence, the transaction was handled by a dedicated international team of over 20 lawyers across the firm's offices in Dubai, Hamburg, London, New York and Singapore. The transaction was led by Dubai Partner **Andrew Baird** and supported by Partners Neale Downes in Dubai, **Maren Brandes** in Hamburg, **Kavita Shah** in London, Leo Chang in New York and **Mei Lin Goh** and **Mehraab Nazir** in Singapore.

This year hosted by the BBC's Jeremy Vine, the annual awards recognise industry bodies across 15 key categories. In addition to WFW being shortlisted for the iLaw Maritime Law award, a number of the firm's clients were acknowledged throughout the ceremony, including long-time client PAO Sovcomflot who took home the accolade for ClassNK Tanker Operator of the Year.

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