

## WFW ADVISES ZEABORN ON ACQUISITION OF RICKMERS SHIPMANAGEMENT

19 SEPTEMBER 2017 • PRESS



International law firm Watson Farley & Williams (“WFW”) has advised Bremen-based ZEABORN Group, as part of a consortium including Bertram Rickmers, on the acquisition of Rickmers Shipmanagement for an undisclosed sum in double-digit millions of euros. The deal has been approved by Rickmers Holding AG’s Creditor Committee, though that of the German competition authorities remains pending.

The consortium also intends to acquire the remaining parts of the Hamburg-based Rickmers Group going forward, as well as invest in Rickmers Shipmanagement’s continued growth and expansion.

ZEABORN is an international shipping company providing services along the entire value added chain of a modern shipping business, from financing, through commercial and technical management to cargo brokerage of its own and chartered vessels. ZEABORN’s main shareholder is the Bremen-based entrepreneur Kurt Zech, who also heads up Zech Group GmbH.

ZEABORN’s acquisition of Rickmers Shipmanagement follows on from that of Rickmers Linie, the multi-purpose carrier arm of the Rickmers Group, in February 2017 on which WFW also advised them. This second acquisition clearly demonstrates ZEABORN ambitious expansion plans, as well as the trend towards ever greater consolidation in the global shipping markets.

The WFW Hamburg team advising ZEABORN was led by Maritime Partner Dr Christian Finnern, supported by Partners Dr Björn-Axel Dißbars (Corporate), Gerrit Bartsch (Tax) and Dr Andreas Wiegreffe (Employment). They were assisted by Senior Associate Torge Rademacher (Corporate) and Associates Thomas Rieck, Florian Leonhard, Christian Schindler (all Corporate) and Nora Fleischhauer (Employment).

Christian comments: “We are delighted to have advised ZEABORN on an important benchmark acquisition which further consolidates their position as a leading company in the maritime sector. That ZEABORN opted once again for WFW to advise them demonstrates the firm’s expertise in the maritime sector, including the cross-practice expertise we can offer to assist on all aspects of complex transactions such as this”.

## RELATED CONTACTS



**DR BJÖRN-AXEL DISSARS**  
PARTNER • HAMBURG

T: +49 40 800 084 486

[bdissars@wfw.com](mailto:bdissars@wfw.com)



**CHRISTIAN R. SCHINDLER**  
MANAGING ASSOCIATE  
• HAMBURG

T: +49 40 800 084 346

[cschindler@wfw.com](mailto:cschindler@wfw.com)



**TORGE RADEMACHER**  
COUNSEL • HAMBURG

T: +49 40 800 084 438

[trademacher@wfw.com](mailto:trademacher@wfw.com)



**DR CHRISTIAN FINNERN LL.M.**  
PARTNER • HAMBURG

T: +49 40 800 084 414  
M: +49 151 440 48 627

[cfinnern@wfw.com](mailto:cfinnern@wfw.com)

## MEDIA ENQUIRIES



**WILL SALOMONE**

T: +44 20 3036 9847

[media@wfw.com](mailto:media@wfw.com)

### Disclaimer

Watson Farley & Williams is a sector specialist international law firm with a focus on the energy, infrastructure and transport sectors. With offices in Athens, Bangkok, Dubai, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hanoi, Hong Kong, London, Madrid, Milan, Munich, New York, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo our 700+ lawyers work as integrated teams to provide practical, commercially focussed advice to our clients around the world.

All references to 'Watson Farley & Williams', 'WFW' and 'the firm' in this document mean Watson Farley & Williams LLP and/or its affiliated entities. Any reference to a 'partner' means a member of Watson Farley & Williams LLP, or a member, partner, employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualification in WFW Affiliated Entities. A list of members of Watson Farley & Williams LLP and their professional qualifications is open to inspection on request.

Watson Farley & Williams LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC312252. It is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and its members are solicitors or registered foreign lawyers.

The information provided in this publication (the "Information") is for general and illustrative purposes only and it is not intended to provide advice whether that advice is financial, legal, accounting, tax or any other type of advice, and should not be relied upon in that regard. While every reasonable effort is made to ensure that the Information provided is accurate at the time of publication, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, validity or currency of the Information and WFW assume no responsibility to you or any third party for the consequences of any errors or omissions. To the maximum extent permitted by law, WFW shall not be liable for indirect or consequential loss or damage, including without limitation any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any use of this publication or the Information.

This publication constitutes attorney advertising.