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Construction commences on SeaRoad's newbuild vessel

German shipbuilding yard Flensburger Schiffbau-Gesellschaft (FSG) has completed the first cut of steel for SeaRoad's newbuild vessel.

A ceremony on 20 May officially commenced the construction of the new roll-on / roll-off (RoRo) freight vessel, a project valued at more than €100 million.

The event involved the ceremonial 'pushing of the button' to start the laser cutting machine with SeaRoad Technical Marine Manager, Tony Johnson, and FSG CEO Philipp Maracke doing the honours. Mr Johnson is currently on the ground in Germany overseeing the newbuild project.

Reaching milestones

Executive Chairman of SeaRoad, Chas Kelly, said the steel-cutting ceremony marked the official start of production at the shipyard.

"The ceremony marks an exciting chapter for SeaRoad, working together with FSG to deliver a vessel that will be of outstanding quality," said Mr Kelly.

"SeaRoad is known for its attention to detail and dedicated customer service. Our new vessel will enable us to continue to deliver on SeaRoad's commitment to service excellence for our partners"

FSG Chief Executive Officer, Philipp Maracke, said, "Seeing the first steel being cut is a great milestone for a vessel and we look forward to our good cooperation with SeaRoad and to seeing this project taking shape."

The new freight vessel will join *SeaRoad Mersey II* and replace SeaRoad's charter vessel *MV Liekut* to operate on Bass Strait between Melbourne and Devonport, scheduled for delivery in the fourth quarter of 2023.

The 210-metre-long vessel will feature the latest technology, including LNG power, as part of SeaRoad's commitment to sustainable practices.

The ship will have a capacity of 4,227 lane metres and capability to transport heavy cargo with a unit weight of up to 100 tonnes.



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About SeaRoad

SeaRoad is an Australian, family-owned business that is Tasmania's trusted shipping and transport logistics partner.

The company provides a responsive, integrated and customer-focussed service that delivers to customers' timeframes – safely, and with certainty – moving goods between Tasmania and mainland Australia.

SeaRoad operates a dedicated freight shipping service six days per week between Devonport and Melbourne with purpose-built RoRo vessels. *MV SeaRoad Mersey II*, built in 2016, is the first coastal ship in Australia to use LNG fuel and power technology. The modern *MV Liekut* joined the SeaRoad fleet in April 2021 under a three-year charter agreement. *Liekut* will be replaced by SeaRoad's newbuild vessel at the end of 2023.

In addition to its two Bass Strait shipping vessels, SeaRoad owns and operates a large road transport and container fleet as well as cargo-handling equipment, which the business utilises at its five strategic locations across Tasmania and in Melbourne.

SeaRoad has the capability to provide fully integrated 'door-to-door' services, incorporating container transport, packing, unpacking, storage, and re-delivery.

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