

Luther advises Ernst Russ and Eimskip JV ElbFeeder on shipbuilding contracts for two next-generation container vessels

Hamburg, 27 November 2025 – Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH has advised ElbFeeder Germany GmbH & Co. KG, a joint venture between the Icelandic transport company Eimskip and the publicly listed Hamburg-based ship-owner Ernst Russ AG, on the conclusion of shipbuilding contracts for two state-of-the-art 2,280 TEU container vessels.

The newbuilds will be constructed by China Merchants Jin Ling Shipyard (Nanjing) Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of the China Merchants Industry Group. Delivery is scheduled for the second half of 2028, with options for two additional vessels. Developed in cooperation with the Shanghai Merchant Ship Design and Research Institute (SDARI), the vessels are specifically designed for the demanding conditions of the North Atlantic routes. They feature dual-fuel propulsion systems designed for both LNG and methanol, combining energy efficiency with significantly reduced emissions. The newbuilds thus contribute to a more sustainable and future-oriented global shipping industry.

The vessels will operate under a long-term time charter on Eimskip's Blue Line between Reykjavik and Rotterdam. This secures the sustainability of Eimskip's North Atlantic service while ensuring a stable income base for the joint venture.

The Luther team was led by Dr. Benjamin Hub (Partner) and Jakob Kauffeldt, LL.M. (Senior Associate), both members of the firm's shipping practice, who successfully enabled the transaction and advised on all key legal aspects of the project.

Luther has extensive experience in maritime and shipping law. In addition to newbuilding projects, the firm has a strong focus on advising on S&P transactions, ship financing, chartering, and ship management agreements. Luther regularly supports domestic and international clients, banks, and investors from the maritime sector in complex transactions and in investments in innovative shipping solutions, drawing on its full-service approach as well as the local knowledge of its various foreign offices.

About Elbfeeder:

Hamburg-based Elbfeeder was founded in 2017 and currently operates a fleet of seven vessels. The joint venture consists of Eimskip and Ernst Russ as shareholders. Upon delivery of the newbuilds, the ElbFeeder fleet will increase to a total of nine vessels.

About Eimskip:

Founded in 1914, Eimskip is a leading transport company headquartered in Reykjavík, Iceland. With more than 1,700 employees and 57 offices in 20 countries, Eimskip operates a fleet of 14 vessels as well as an extensive land transport network, terminal operations, and warehousing and cold storage facilities.

Eimskip provides container and refrigerated container transport services across the North Atlantic, connecting to international markets, and is specialised in global forwarding services with a particular focus on frozen and fresh produce. The company has built a strong foundation for excellent customer service and the reliable delivery of transport solutions.

About Ernst Russ AG:

Ernst Russ AG is a publicly listed, internationally operating ship-owner based in Hamburg, Germany. Parts of the company's history date back to 1893. At present, the Ernst Russ Group manages a fleet of 26 vessels, some of which are operated jointly with strategic partners. The company focuses on container vessels ranging from 700 to 4,200 TEU, complemented by a larger container vessel of around 13,400 TEU, as well as a handysize bulker and a multipurpose vessel.

Its objective is to operate a sustainable fleet with a balanced distribution of employment periods, thereby ensuring long-term risk diversification.

On behalf of ElbFeeder Germany GmbH:

Luther, *Dr Benjamin Hub* (Partner), Corporate Law, M&A and Maritime Law

Luther, *Jakob Kauffeldt*, LL.M. (Senior Associate), Corporate Law, M&A and Maritime Law

Luther, *Dr Astrid Seehafer*, M.Sc. (Partner), Environment, Planning, Regulatory

Luther, *Isabel Dorothee Ruhnke*, LL.M. (Senior Associate), Environment, Planning, Regulatory

Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

Luther is a leading German commercial law firm that offers comprehensive legal and tax advice. The full-service law firm employs over 420 lawyers and tax advisors and is represented in ten German economic hubs as well as with 11 of its own international offices in key investment locations and financial centres in Europe and Asia. Its clients include medium-sized enterprises and large corporations, as well as the public sector.

Luther works closely with other commercial law firms in all the prevailing jurisdictions. Luther is a member of unyer (www.unyer.com), a global organisation of leading professional services firms that cooperate exclusively with each other.

Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH is a law firm with a business approach: our innovative awareness aspires us to provide our clients with customised legal advice that addresses individual needs and delivers the greatest possible economic benefit. All of Luther's lawyers and tax advisers have a solid understanding of interdisciplinary matters and a wealth of experience in collaborating on complex tasks. Luther was honoured as JUVE Law Firm of the Year for Regulation in 2024. Further information is available at: www.luther-lawfirm.com.

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