

**PRESS RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Desgagnés adds the M/V *Taïga Desgagnés* to its fleet**

**Quebec City, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017** — Desgagnés is proud to announce the addition of the M/V *Taïga Desgagnés* to its fleet. She is 143 meters long with a deadweight of 17,500 tons and over 21,500 cubic meters of carrying capacity, excluding the main deck, at a draft of 9.7 meters. Built in 2007, she is equipped with three 80-ton cranes, which can be combined to lift a total of 160 tons; she holds an Ice Class equivalent to 1A and can reach a speed of 15 knots.

“The addition of the *Taïga Desgagnés* emanates from an important programme to revitalize the Desgagnés fleet while increasing its carrying capacity,” said Mr. Louis-Marie Beaulieu, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Desgagnés, who adds: “The *Taïga Desgagnés* will allow the transportation of general cargo and dry bulk, both in Canada as well as internationally, according to the contracts and shippers’ demands.” The *Taïga Desgagnés* will generate a total of thirty direct jobs as well as several million dollars in direct economic benefits in the Quebec and Canadian economy, in addition to the economic spin-offs and related indirect jobs.

This new Desgagnés vessel bears the name *Taïga Desgagnés* in honour of this majestic forest that covers Canada from east to west, in addition to a large part of all the Northern countries. The etymology of the word “taïga” reveals that it derives from the Russian language to name the boreal forest. On a cultural level, taïga refers to the collective imagination of the far north, which the *Taïga Desgagnés* will sail proudly.

The *Taïga Desgagnés* will sail in international waters until its arrival in Canada in order to participate to the Arctic supply service beginning mid-June.

**About Desgagnés**

Desgagnés, whose headquarters are in Quebec City, is a conglomerate that has specialized since the 19<sup>th</sup> century in marine transportation of liquid bulk, general cargo, dry bulk and passengers. Its activities also extend to ship repair as well as the rental and operation of heavy machinery. Desgagnés owns and operates a fleet of ships that navigate on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, the Canadian Arctic, the East coasts of Canada and the United States and all the seas of the world. With an annual turnover nearing 250 million dollars, Desgagnés creates some 1,000 jobs in high season with a payroll exceeding 70 million dollars.

— 30 —

**Sources:**

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