

## Meriaura expands into a new vessel segment

Maritime transport company Meriaura Ltd. has signed a long-term contract with Aalto Shipping Company Ltd of time chartering dry cargo vessel 'Airisto'. M/V Airisto's capacity is 8700 tonnes and 12700 cubic meters. She is significantly larger than the vessels operated by Meriaura until now.

Because of her large cubic capacity, the ship is suitable especially for large volume bulk cargoes, such as various biofuels, wood and sawn timber. The ship has two separate cargo holds and partial tween decks that allow transporting of part cargoes and project cargoes.

"With this vessel type we respond to customer needs and to changing material flows in the Baltic Sea. Carrying products of bio and circular economy has always been part of the core business of our company. Now we are able to carry larger cargo quantities," says Beppe Rosin, Vice Managing Director of Meriaura Ltd. The long-term time charter arrangement complies with the strategy of Meriaura Group. The strategy is based on a mix of owned tonnage and long-term time charter contracts. "Expanding our fleet is a clear target. We are continuously looking for potential candidates for purchase or time charter, also the in size of M/V Airisto", comments Beppe Rosin.

MV Airisto will be delivered to Meriaura at end of September after her docking is completed in Tallinn. The 1A ice classed vessel will fly the Finnish flag and have Finnish deck officers that are familiar with the northern conditions. The vessel's main traffic areas are the Baltic and North Sea.

After M/V Airisto has joined the Meriaura fleet, the bulk tonnage comprises of 15 vessels and expands into 69000 tonnes dwt. In addition, the group owns and operates two deck carriers and one roro-vessel.

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**Meriaura Ltd** is a Finnish family owned shipping company. Meriaura specialises in the transport of industrial raw materials and in demanding project cargo on the Baltic Sea and in Europe. At present company operates 16 dry-cargo vessels and 2 multipurpose vessels carrying annually approximately 3 million tons of cargo. Core values of the company are innovative customer driven service, safety and operational efficiency. Company's vision is to be in the frontline of developing environmentally sustainable shipping. Meriaura Group employs approximately 200 persons.