



Looking back at the beginnings.

We have been sailing the seas successfully since 1950. Below, we invite you on a short trip through the history of Schlüssel Reederei.

1950

Heady days in the newly-established Federal Republic of Germany - also on the water. Only a few months after Konrad Adenauer signs the new constitution, the 'Basic Law', Schlüssel Reederei is founded by four shipping managers from Bremen, namely Carl Adamowsky, Herbert Drewes, Ernst Meier-Hedde and Hermann Schlüter.

As a sign of their strong ties to the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, and borrowing the 'key' emblem from the city's coat-of-arms, the founders call their company 'Schlüssel Reederei'. The Bremen key is also integrated in the company's flag, under which the first ship in the fleet - the tween decker MS 'Ansgaritor' - entered service shortly afterwards.

1955

The company's first tanker - the MT 'Stephanitor' with 17,000 tdw - enters service.

1965

MS 'Hahnentor'(35,000 tdw), the first bulk carrier in the fleet, enters service. Some ships are operated under the legal form of a "Partenreederei" (joint ownership). An institutional investor and an industrial company are found as important partners for providing the substantial amounts of finance required to build such ships.

1970

Ship capacities increase in line with a continuous growth in order volume. The turbine tanker 'Humboldt' operated by Schlüssel Reederei has a deadweight of 220,000 mts - making it the biggest ship in the German merchant fleet at the time.

1982

Herbert Drewes leaves the company. Dr. Jens Meier-Hedde is appointed to the board of directors.

1986

Dr. Jens Meier-Hedde manages the company as its sole managing director from this year on.

1987

Schlüssel Reederei acquires Ister Reederei, a Bremen-based shipping company.

1992

Off to new shores, with container ships: Hansa Mare Reederei is established to finance the latest generation of ships, with Schlüssel Reederei holding a 50-percent share.

1993

The MS 'Mare Balticum' enters service as the company's first container ship. The 20 container ships subsequently financed by Hansa Mare Reederei on the capital market are managed by Schlüssel Reederei.



1995

Sale of 'Ansgaritor', the company's last bulk carrier.

1998

The first of eight 4000-TEU ships enters service.

2000

Schlüssel Reederei celebrates its 50th anniversary under the slogan 'Your key to the sea since 1950'.

2001

The fourth 'Ansgaritor', a 2600-TEU container ship, enters service for Schlüssel Reederei.

2007

MS 'Ansgaritor' is sold in a stable market environment. The board of directors is enlarged in December 2007 when Dr. Andreas Opatz becomes a shareholder.

2008

Dr. Jens Meier-Hedde retires as managing director and transfers management responsibility to Dr. Andreas Opatz. With a fleet of 18 container ships in water and around 55,000 container slots, Schlüssel Reederei now manages one of Bremen's biggest fleets of container ships.

2011

By selling his business shares to the shareholder families Meier-Hedde and Lattemann, Hans Hermann Schlüter separates from the Company with effect as of 31.12.2011.

2012

With effect as of 01 October 2012 Schlüssel Reederei has taken over 100% shares of Reederei Harmstorf & Co., Hamburg, from Thomas Meier-Hedde.

2015

With effect as of 31 January 2015 Dr. Andreas Opatz resigned his duties as Managing Director and partner of Schlüssel Reederei KG. Since 01. February Schlüssel Reederei KG has been led by Thomas Meier-Hedde and Thorsten Thronicke.

2016

With effect as of 01 September 2016 Thorsten Thronicke resigned his duties as Managing Director of Schlüssel Reederei KG. Since 01 September 2016 Schlüssel Reederei KG has been solely led by Thomas Meier-Hedde.

2018

Thorsten Thronicke rejoins Schlüssel Reederei as Managing Director and leads the team together with Thomas Meier-Hedde.