

MarineLink Acquires the “MarineLink Explorer”

MarineLink, a new venture from Upper Lakes Group, has been working to investigate and develop exciting new shipping opportunities, such as trans-lake ro-ro truck ferries, tug and barge systems, container feeder services, and project cargo movements. MarineLink recently welcomed the vessel “MarineLink Explorer” to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System.

The newly acquired vessel is a US built, 3,000 tonne heavy-lift with 2 x 219 tonne heavy lift derricks. After being laid-up for many years, the vessel is now undergoing renovations and will be re-activated to serve as a ‘pilot’ vessel. Initially, the vessel will re-activated as a barge, using the pusher tug “Commodore Straits” for propulsion, but as she develops her unique market niche, she will be re-activated as a self-powered ship.

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation is encouraged to see the addition of such a versatile vessel to the System. It is a positive sign for the development of short sea shipping on Hwy H₂O and will certainly be appreciated by customers looking for new options to reach the North American heartland. The marine mode continues to offer the potential of reducing highway congestion, stress on existing community infrastructure and GHG reduction and the SLSMC continues to work with all our stakeholders to promote short sea shipping.

For more information and/or to discuss the opportunities described above in detail, please contact the MarineLink project team:

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