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Press Release · Pressemitteilung

SMM's landmark is back: Here we go!

35-tonne propeller in front of the Hamburg exhibition halls heralds the start of SMM 2026 – and demonstrates how modern ship technology can boost energy efficiency

Hamburg, 26 August 2026 – When the giant ship propeller takes its place in front of the Hamburg exhibition halls, there is no mistaking it: **Here we go – it's SMM time again.** For many years, the propeller supplied by Mecklenburger Metallguss (MMG) has been a familiar sight at the world's leading maritime industry event and has long since become one of its landmarks. On Thursday, 27 August, the maritime heavyweight will return to the exhibition grounds, providing a highly visible signal that SMM 2026 is about to begin. Just a few days later, from 1 to 4 September, the international maritime industry will gather in Hamburg.

Once again, its dimensions are impressive: **around 35.5 tonnes in weight, 7.8 metres in diameter and five blades.** Made of propeller bronze, the propeller will be erected in front of the Central Entrance, providing a striking preview of what SMM stands for: maritime engineering excellence and technologies for more efficient shipping.

“When the propeller is in place on the exhibition grounds, we know: **Here we go.** For us, its installation is the visible starting signal for SMM every time. The propeller has long since become a landmark of our event and, like few other images, represents the maritime industry and its innovative strength. What makes it particularly special is that it is not merely a showpiece: after SMM, it will actually be installed on a container ship, where it will help improve efficiency,” says **Claus Ulrich Selbach, Vice President Exhibitions Maritime & Technology at Hamburg Messe und Congress.**

From SMM landmark back to sea

The propeller was not manufactured specifically as an exhibition piece. MMG designed and manufactured it in Waren (Müritz) for the **4,300-TEU container ship KMTC Nhava Sheva**, operated by the Korean shipping company Korea Marine Transport Co. Ltd. Following its appearance at SMM, it will replace the original propeller of the vessel, which was built in 2008.

Using modern computational fluid dynamics, the new re-design propeller has been specifically optimised for the vessel and its current operating and sailing profile. Depending on the vessel's speed, it is expected to **propel the ship five to seven per cent more efficiently** than the original propeller. In addition, MMG's **ESCAP® fin cap** is expected to deliver further fuel savings of around **two per cent**, according to the company.

The propeller was designed, optimised and manufactured entirely by MMG in Waren (Müritz). It is part of a series of re-design propellers for this type of vessel.

An SMM tradition spanning more than 20 years

The propeller will travel to Hamburg by heavy-load transport. It is securely mounted on a special tilting device that will be used to move it into its display position on the exhibition grounds. Before it is tilted upright, the fin cap will be fitted using a loader crane.

“The installation of the propeller in front of the Hamburg exhibition halls for SMM is a very special moment for us every time – but also a logistical challenge. We are delighted to once again make a highly visible statement for the maritime industry in Hamburg in 2026. For us, it is also a clear symbol of the capabilities of German shipbuilding and, in particular, the maritime supply industry,” says **Dr Lars Greitsch, CEO of Mecklenburger Metallguss (MMG)**.

The connection between MMG and SMM has a long tradition: **MMG has been bringing large-scale propellers to SMM in Hamburg since at least 2004**. For more than two decades, the installation of the propeller on the exhibition grounds has therefore been one of the most visible signs that SMM is just around the corner – and in 2026 it once again means: **Hamburg is becoming the meeting place of the maritime world**.

SMM 2026 will take place in Hamburg from **1 to 4 September 2026**. Around **2,300 exhibitors from 70 countries** will present technologies and solutions for the future of the maritime industry at the world’s leading maritime industry event.

Experience the propeller installation live – or receive the latest photos

Media representatives are warmly invited to attend and follow the installation on site:

Thursday, 27 August 2026

9:00 a.m. to approx. 11:00 a.m.

Messeplatz, Central Entrance, Hamburg Messe und Congress

On site will be **Claus Ulrich Selbach**, Vice President Exhibitions Maritime & Technology, Hamburg Messe und Congress (until 9:45 a.m.); **Christoph Lücke**, Director SMM, Hamburg Messe und Congress (until 9:45 a.m.); and **Dr Lars Greitsch**, CEO of Mecklenburger Metallguss (MMG).

The propeller will arrive at Messeplatz from 7:00 a.m. Between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., there will be good opportunities to capture the installation in photographs and video footage.

Registration: [Propeller installation at SMM 2026](#)

Unable to attend but would like to receive the latest photos?

We will make current photo material from the propeller installation available in our digital press kit on Thursday: [Download Digital Press Kit](#)

Press accreditation SMM

Media representatives can register her for SMM 2026: [Press Shop](#)

A valid SMM press accreditation also grants access to ALL ABOUT PORTS and LogiNext Germany.

About SMM

SMM – the world's leading maritime industry event – will take place from **1 to 4 September 2026** in Hamburg. Under the guiding theme “**Driving the Maritime Transition**”, it brings together international stakeholders from across the maritime industry to discuss key future topics and actively shape the development of the sector. Around **2,300 exhibiting companies** from **70 countries** and **50,000 participants from 120 nations** are expected. Spanning **more than 90,000 m²** across **twelve exhibition halls**, SMM showcases the entire value chain of the industry. The focus is on **energy efficiency** as a key lever of the maritime transition, complemented by **maritime security and defence, artificial intelligence, decarbonisation, and digital technologies**. SMM brings together **shipyards and shipping companies, suppliers, classification societies, start-ups, research institutions, policymakers and international organisations** from around the world. Over four days, international market leaders, newcomers and key players from across the maritime industry come together in Hamburg. Numerous **innovations and world premieres** will be presented to the public for the first time at SMM. A comprehensive **conference programme** accompanies the exhibition, including **TradeWinds Shipowners' Forum**, the **Maritime Future Summit**, the **gmec – Global Maritime Environmental Congress**, the **MS&D – International Conference on Maritime Security & Defence**, and the **Offshore Dialogue**. Running alongside SMM, **ALL ABOUT PORTS** and **LogiNext Germany** will launch as a new platform for integrated port solutions. The international conference and accompanying exhibition focus on port infrastructure, terminal technology and port logistics, bringing together port operators, technology providers and investors.

Further information: [SMM – Driving the Maritime Transition | 1–4 September 2026](#)

Supporters of SMM 2026

Main sponsor: DNV

Supporters: VDR, VSM, VDMA, GMT, VDS, CLIA

Conference partners: gmec: Seatrade Maritime News; MS&D: German Maritime Institute (DMI);

Offshore Dialogue: German Association for Marine Technology (GMT); Maritime Future Summit:

HANSA – International Maritime Journal; TradeWinds Shipowners Forum: TradeWinds

About ALL ABOUT PORTS

ALL ABOUT PORTS is an international conference with an accompanying exhibition dedicated to the future of the port industry. The inaugural event will take place on 2–3 September 2026 at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg and will be held in parallel with SMM – the world's leading maritime industry event. It positions itself as a new platform for integrated port solutions. The focus is on port infrastructure, terminal technology and port logistics, as well as key topics such as digitalisation, automation, sustainability and security. ALL ABOUT PORTS brings together international stakeholders from the port and logistics industry and fosters exchange on innovation and future-ready port locations.

Further information: www.allaboutports.de

About LogiNext Germany 2026

LogiNext Germany 2026 will take place on 2–3 September 2026 at the Congress Center Hamburg (CCH) and is aimed at decision makers from transport, logistics, IT and supply chain management, as well as professionals responsible for operations, digitalization and data & analytics. Jointly initiated by Royal Jaarbeurs and Hamburg Messe und Congress, the congress with accompanying exhibition presents innovations and insights in the areas of intermodal supply chains and global supply chain connectivity, the port as a digital supply chain hub, digital logistics ecosystems and interoperability, as well as AI, automation and resilience along the supply chain. Attendees can expect inspiring keynotes, panel discussions and matchmaking programs with a strong focus on international cooperation.

For more information, visit www.loginext.de/en/ and follow [LogiNext Germany on LinkedIn](#)

Digital Press Kit

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