

## PRESS RELEASE

Bergheim, Austria on April 15, 2021

**PALFINGER equips robotic ships for the first time**

*A total of eight robotic vessels will be added to the newly launched Armada fleet by Ocean Infinity, an American marine robotics company deploying autonomous robots for unmanned operations. For the first time, PALFINGER has been selected as a supplier for robotic ships by VARD, global designer and ship builder for specialized vessels.*



*Marine Robotic Vessel for Ocean Infinity. © VARD Group*

The US company *Ocean Infinity*, founded in 2017, has been operating their robotic fleet *Infinity* to gather and analyze data from the world's oceans. While *Infinity* consists of autonomous underwater vehicles, a second fleet named *Armada* is set to become operational in 2021 with robotic ships operating on the water's surface. In the coming years, this fleet will be expanded with vessels acting as unique multi-purpose platforms, designed and built by the Norwegian VARD Group. PALFINGER provides these vessels with rescue boats and davits as well as with winches for anchoring and mooring operations. It is the first time in PALFINGER's history to be part of a robotic vessel project as such.

**A giant leap forward**

In 2022, the series of eight vessels will expand the newly launched Armada fleet to a total of 17 robotic ships. Specifically designed to operate as multi-role vessels, the additional vessels will support Ocean Infinity's global operations from their control centers. With a length of 78 and a width of 15 meters, the vessels will be the first of their kind and represent a giant leap forward for the maritime industry.

**Tailor-made equipment for autonomous operations**

PALFINGER is to deliver winches which are specially designed and developed for autonomous operations. "We have been working closely with VARD Group for a long time to develop tailor-made anchor winches. These meet all necessary requirements – specifically for autonomous and remote operations – and we are proud that our technology and solutions were selected for these innovative vessels," says Gunther Fleck, Vice President Sales & Service Region Marine at PALFINGER. The winches with all their functions are electrically operated. Including a wide range of safety and redundant

solutions, they enable smooth operations onboard unmanned vessels. In addition to the winches, PALFINGER will supply davits and rescue boats. The latter are built for operation in the most demanding environments and comply with the latest regulations defined by the maritime industry.

The new robotic ships will be built at VARD's shipyard Vard Vung Tau in Vietnam. Their delivery is due in the period from mid-2022 to end-2023.

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#### **ABOUT PALFINGER AG**

PALFINGER is an international technology and mechanical engineering company and the world's leading provider of innovative crane and lifting solutions. With about 11,000 employees, 34 locations and a worldwide sales and service network of around 5,000 service points, PALFINGER guarantees customers immediate and optimal proximity.

As the leader in its engineering field, the company aims to ensure its partners' business success in the long term by providing solutions and products that remain economically and ecologically viable in the future. Its broad product and model portfolio allow PALFINGER to take digitalization and the deployment of artificial intelligence to new levels.

As a global company with strong roots in its home region, PALFINGER is convinced that thinking and acting in the interest of sustainability plays a vital role in successful business operations. That is why the company assumes social, ecological and economic responsibility along the entire value chain.

PALFINGER AG has been listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange since 1999 and achieved a revenue of EUR 1.53 billion in 2020.

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