



**Groupe
Desgagnés inc.**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ACQUISITION OF NEARLY \$40 MILLION FOR DESGAGNÉS

Québec, July 12, 2007. — It is with great pleasure that *Groupe Desgagnés* announced today the acquisition of a new vessel, a Beluga F-240 series, by its subsidiary *Transport Desgagnés Inc.* She is a multipurpose, tweendeck, Lo-Lo cargo ship, with a deadweight of 12,744 mt, and able to carry heavy payloads. With a length of over 138 meters, the freight capacity of her holds is 16,000 m³, while her total capacity is 20,000 m³ including the main deck. The vessel is also equipped with two 120 mt cranes, which may be deployed to lift 240 mt in tandem. Built at the Jiangzhou shipyard in China, she is rated Ice Class 1A and is equipped with a 5,400 kW (7,344 BHP) engine, enabling her to achieve a steaming speed of 15.5 knots.

This ship will be named the ***Rosaire A. Desgagnés***, in honour of Captain Rosaire Desgagnés, a well known and much respected figure in the maritime industry, who has provided an outstanding contribution to the success of *Desgagnés*; and also, to the memory of Mr. Rosaire A. Beaulieu, father of Mr. Louis-Marie Beaulieu, the majority shareholder of *Desgagnés*. « *The ship, which is now undergoing final trials at sea, will be delivered to us this week in Shanghai, and should arrive in Québec in mid-August* », declared Beaulieu. He added that « *the **Rosaire A. Desgagnés** will mainly be trading in the Canadian Eastern Arctic during summer and will be chartered out to the international market during the rest of the year* ». Mr. Beaulieu also noted that he is « *pleased with the fact that this new acquisition will greatly improve Sealift services to the Northern Communities we have been serving for more than 40 years* ».

It is worth emphasizing that *Desgagnés*, through its subsidiary *Desgagnés Transarctik*, is the leading marine carrier of general cargo to the communities of Nunavik and Nunavut. *Desgagnés* also works in partnership with *Arctic Co-operatives Limited* by way of *Nunavut Sealink and Supply Inc. (NSSI)*, a company providing sealift services out of Montreal and Churchill, to communities in the five Nunavut regions. Arctic Co-operatives (ACL) is an organization comprising some 19,000 Inuit members. Amongst the activities and services it provides to its members, ACL undertakes and coordinates procurement activities and related logistics for the co-op stores located in the great majority of the Nunavut Communities. *Desgagnés* is also in partnership with the *Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec (FCNQ)* through *Taqramut Transport Inc. (TTI)*, a corporation providing sealift transportation and related services to all the communities in Nunavik. The FCNQ boasts more than 7,500 Inuit members, thus representing the near totality of Inuit adults in Nunavik. Beyond being very active in different fields of service activities, the FCNQ owns and develops the co-op stores in all of the 14 communities in Nunavik and plays an important role in the region's economic development.

Louis-Marie Beaulieu shows pride in these partnerships. « *With their beneficial impact on the Nunavik and Nunavut populations, both partnerships enable us to be in direct contact with local (Sealift) users who embody the real marine transportation requirements for these remote regions. These alliances, with state-of-the-art assets, allow for better services to users, and contribute to Desgagnés remaining the leader in Northern Sealift services* », concludes Beaulieu.

With its head office in Quebec, *Desgagnés* is a conglomerate that has, since the 19th Century, specialized in marine carriage and transportation of liquid and solid bulk, general cargo and also passengers. Its activities also extend to marine vessel repairs and maintenance, as much as to rental and operation of heavy machinery. The Company owns and operates a fleet of 16 motor vessels that cover the St. Lawrence River Network and the Great Lakes, the Canadian Eastern Arctic, the East coasts of Canada and the United States, as well as the seas worldwide. This new acquisition of nearly \$40 M is part of *Desgagnés'* fleet rejuvenation plan, which began several years ago and will continue over the months and years to come.

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Enclosures: pictures of the *Rosaire A. Desgagnés*

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