



KRB Update #2195 – New Ship

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Greetings from Congo on the *Africa Mercy* – we had some exciting news before Christmas and I wish to share with you all. Below is the official press release:

MERCY SHIPS TO BUILD WORLD'S LARGEST CIVILIAN HOSPITAL SHIP

Deal Doubles the Capacity to Deliver Free, World-Class Health Care

BEIJING, CHINA, December 19, 2013 --Mercy Ships has announced that it has reached an agreement with Asian and European shipbuilding firms to purpose-build a new 36,600-GRT hospital ship for Mercy Ships. Contracts were signed between Mr. Dong Qiang, VP of China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC), and Donald K. Stephens, President/ Founder of Mercy Ships, together with Jim Paterson, Senior VP of Mercy Ships Marine Operations. The vessel will be built at the group's Tianjin Xingang Shipyard where the shipyard's Chairman, Mr. Gao Xuehu, and President, Mr. Hu Xiang, expressed excitement to be working on this unique project.

"This project will make this vessel the world's largest civilian hospital ship, and delivery is being planned for July 2017," stated Mr. Gao Xuehu, Chairman of Tianjin Xingang Shipbuilding Heavy

Industry, Ltd. "We are thrilled to formally secure this important milestone for a project we have worked on quietly for quite some time," said Stephens. "Our goal with this second Mercy Ship is to more than double the hope and healing through life-changing surgeries provided to those with little access to specialized

healthcare and to increase the partnership, training and educational support of health professionals within the developing nations our ships will continue to serve."



This agreement comes on the heels of the Mercy Ships story, recently highlighted by CBS on "60 Minutes"

(<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/africa-mercy-hospital-of-hope-50141230/>).

The 174-metre hospital ship will be designed by the Finnish firm Deltamarin. Stena RoRo will manage the actual project construction under the leadership of Per Westling, Managing Director.

The 157-year-old French ship brokerage company Barry Rogliano Salles (BRS) under the leadership of its Geneva (Switzerland) office Managing Director, Gilbert Walter, negotiated the successful contract and sale. CSIC is one of China's largest shipbuilding and ship repair groups and operates directly under the China state government with authorization for investment and capital management. The group has a total asset base of USD 27.54 billion and a workforce of 140,000. The group's 28 R&D institutes employ more than 30,000 engineers, has eight state-level laboratory centers, seven enterprise technology centers and 150 large-scale laboratories.

The new Mercy Ship will be classed by Lloyd's Register and flagged by Malta.

Please pray *for construction of our new ship *for the finances for this project *for all those involved in this project

Serving Together,

Keith

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PS: Announcement on the next country for 2014-2015 will come soon.



Official Handshake From L – R: Front row: President Hu Xiang (Tianjin Xingang Shipyard), Don Stephens, President / Founder (Mercy Ships); President Xu Ziqiu (CSOC)