

## **COIN CEREMONY FOR EXPLORA I TAKES PLACE AT FINCANTIERI SHIPYARD IN MONFALCONE**

- Ship to enter service in May 2023 with sister ship EXPLORA II to follow in 2024, and two further luxury vessels in 2025 and 2026
- The four luxury ships, with an overall investment of more than €2 billion, feature the latest environmental solutions and a highly-innovative design
- Long-term partnership between MSC and Fincantieri numbers eight ships to-date, all built in Italy, for a total order worth almost €6 billion

***Trieste, Italy and Geneva, Switzerland, February 24, 2022*** – The coin ceremony of EXPLORA I, the first of four luxury cruise ships ordered by the Cruises Division of MSC Group for its new luxury brand *Explora Journeys*, today took place at Fincantieri's shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy.

The vessel, whose construction began in June 2021, will enter service in May 2023 and is the first of four ships on order worth more than €2 billion, each with a gross tonnage of approximately 64,000 tons and featuring the latest available technologies in terms of environment and sustainability.

Each ship will be equipped with 461 guest suites and showcase a highly-innovative design for the discerning guests' comfort and relaxation who seek journeys to discover exclusive classic and exotic destinations.

The time-honoured coin ceremony when two newly minted coins are placed under the keel before it is laid as a sign of blessing and good fortune in the future was conducted by the new vessel's godmothers, Alessandra Fontana, Chief Marketing Officer, Explora Journeys who represented the owners and Ester Fugazzi, Head of General Services for Fincantieri who represented the ship builder.

**Pierfrancesco Vago, Executive Chairman, Cruises Division of MSC Group** said, *"Italy is important for the entire maritime sector and our Cruise Divisions' €6 billion expenditure with Fincantieri for four Explora Journeys luxury ships and four MSC Cruises' vessels has made a significant economic impact of €27 billion to the country.*

*"The MSC group employs 15,000 people in Italy and will continue to invest in the nation to create further direct and indirect employment opportunities, which in turn leads to a positive contribution to the national economy."*

**Giuseppe Bono, Fincantieri CEO**, stated: *"EXPLORA I will be a new-concept ship totally projected into the future, the utmost expression of the partnership between MSC and Fincantieri. Indeed, the*

*partnership with this ship owner, is marked by constant technological and design evolution. In a few years this has led to three different cutting-edge prototypes and has emphasized the unique ability of our Group to create innovation”.*

Construction of EXPLORA II started in October 2021 at Fincantieri's Castellammare di Stabia (Naples) yard. The ship will be delivered in autumn 2024 at the Sestri Ponente (Genoa) shipyard with two further vessels delivered in 2025 and 2026.

The long-term partnership between MSC and Fincantieri to date numbers eight ships including the new vessels for Explora Journeys with all built in Italy for total orders worth almost €6 billion, making the Geneva, Switzerland-based owner one of the main customers for the Italian shipbuilder.

The first order placed by MSC was signed in 2015 for the construction of two “Seaside” class ships, *MSC Seaside* and *MSC Seaview*, which were delivered in 2017 and 2018 respectively and then represented the largest and most technologically advanced ships ever built in Italy.

This was followed by two “Seaside Evo” class ships, even larger and further enhanced from a technological and environmental point of view. *MSC Seashore* was delivered in July 2021 and her sister ship, *MSC Seascope*, will enter service in November 2022.

\* \* \*

#### **About the Cruises Division of MSC Group**

The Cruises Division of MSC Group, the leading privately held Swiss-based shipping and logistics conglomerate with over 300 years of maritime heritage, is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has two distinct brands within its structure - the contemporary and luxury brands.

MSC Cruises, the contemporary brand, is the world's third largest cruise brand as well as the leader in Europe, South America, the Gulf region and Southern Africa with more market share in addition to deployed capacity than any other player. It is also the fastest growing global cruise brand with a strong presence in the Caribbean, North America and the Far East markets.

Its fleet comprises 19 modern vessels combined with a sizeable future global investment portfolio of new vessels and is projected to grow to 23 cruise ships by 2025 with options for six more vessel orders in place through 2030.

MSC Cruises offers its guests an enriching, immersive and safe cruise experience inspired by the Company's European heritage, where they can enjoy international dining, world-class entertainment, award-winning family programmes and the very latest user-friendly technology on board. To learn more about contemporary brand's itineraries and experience on board its ships please see [here](#).

Meanwhile the luxury brand, Explora Journeys, is set to start operating in 2023 with a fleet with the latest and most advanced environmental and maritime technologies available. The first of which will have a gross tonnage of 63,900 GT and feature 461 of the largest suites at sea, all with ocean front balconies or terraces. These luxury ships will introduce to the luxury segment a broad range of new guest experiences and other activities as well as generous ratios of public spaces, in addition to showcasing highly innovative design. For further information about Explora Journeys please see [here](#).

MSC's number one priority across all its operations has always been the health and safety of its guests and crew, as well as the communities at the destinations its ships serve. In August 2020, MSC Cruises implemented a new comprehensive and robust health and safety protocol to become the first major line to return to sea. To learn more about MSC Cruises' health & safety protocol please see [here](#).

MSC has long been committed to environmental stewardship with a long-term goal to achieve net zero emissions for its operations by 2050. The Company is also a significant investor in next-generation environmental marine technologies, with the objective to support their accelerated development and availability industry-wide. To learn more about the Company's environmental commitment please see [here](#).

Finally, to learn more about the MSC Foundation, MSC Group's own vehicle to lead, focus and advance its conservation, humanitarian and cultural commitments please see [here](#).

***Fincantieri** is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups, the only one active in all high-tech marine industry sectors. It is leader in the construction and transformation of cruise, naval and oil & gas and wind offshore vessels, as well as in the production of systems and component equipment, after-sales services and marine interiors solutions. Thanks to the expertise developed in the management of complex projects, the Group boasts first-class references in infrastructures, and is a reference player in digital technologies and cybersecurity, electronics and advanced systems. With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri maintains its know-how, expertise and management centres in Italy, here employing 10,000 workers and creating around 90,000 jobs, which double worldwide thanks to a production network of 18 shipyards operating in four continents and with over 20,000 employees.*

[www.fincantieri.com](http://www.fincantieri.com)

#### **FINCANTIERI**

Press Office

Tel. +39 040 3192473

[press.office@fincantieri.it](mailto:press.office@fincantieri.it)

Investor Relations

Tel. +39 040 3192111

[investor.relations@fincantieri.it](mailto:investor.relations@fincantieri.it)