

FINCANTIERI: VARD WILL BUILD 2 FURTHER LUXURY EXPEDITION CRUISE VESSELS FOR PONANT - OTHER OPERATIONS

Trieste, 6 March 2018 – Vard Holdings Limited ("VARD") - Norwegian subsidiary of Fincantieri active in the design and shipbuilding of specialized vessels - has signed a contract for the design and construction of two additional luxury expedition cruise vessels for French cruise company PONANT, a subsidiary of Artemis Group (holding company of the Pinault family), with deliveries scheduled respectively in 1Q and 2Q 2020.

The vessels will be identical to those ordered in 2016. They will be built by VARD Group's production network, and will be about 131 meters long, 18 meters wide, and approximately 10,000 gross tons. The new builds will have a cruise speed of 15 knots and accommodate 180 passengers on board (92 cabins with a balcony each).

The ships will be fitted with the very latest environmentally friendly technologies and with high class luxury facilities on board. Due to their small size, they will be able to reach ports and destinations inaccessible to larger vessels. The interior fittings will be designed on a "human scale" with the utmost attention to detail.

The first vessel in the series will be delivered in 2Q 2018, followed by the delivery of the next three vessels in the period from autumn 2018 to summer 2019. In addition, VARD will deliver the first arctic LNG cruise vessel to PONANT in 2021.

Fincantieri has already built four vessels for PONANT, "*Le Boréal*", "*L'Austral*", "*Le Soléal*" and "*Le Lyrial*", delivered respectively in 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2015.

VARD is 80.64% controlled by Fincantieri, which fully consolidates its financial results.

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The Board of Directors of Fincantieri delegated to the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer the authority to issue non-convertible bonds before year end, subject to market conditions. The proceeds of the issue will be used, as per market practice, to refinance the bonds issued by Fincantieri in 2013 and expiring in November 2018, as well as for general corporate purposes.

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Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and number one by diversification and innovation. It is leader in cruise ship design and construction and a reference player in all high-tech shipbuilding industry's sectors, from

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naval to offshore vessels, from high-complexity special vessels and ferries to mega-yachts, ship repairs and conversions, systems and components production and after-sales services.

Headquartered in Trieste (Italy), the Group has built more than 7,000 vessels in over 230 years of maritime history. With more than 19,400 employees, of whom more than 8,200 in Italy, 20 shipyards in 4 continents, today Fincantieri is the leading Western shipbuilder. It has among its clients the major cruise operators, the Italian and the U.S. Navy, in addition to several foreign navies, and it is partner of some of the main European defense companies within supranational programmes.

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