

Rhenus Maritime Services transports 3,600 pipes from Germany to Canada

Pipeline logistics for LNG terminal





Subject

In 70 days halfway around the world

What sounds like a new edition of the Jules Verne novel was the task at hand for pipe transportation from Germany to Canada.



Destination: Canada's west coast .

This is where the foundation stone was laid for the “Eagle Mountain – Woodfibre Gas Pipeline” project of Canadian energy supplier FortisBC.

In 2025, a new 50-kilometre gas pipeline between Coquitlam and Squamish will be built between Coquitlam and Squamish.

3,600
pipes

900
truck transports

70
days

Challenge

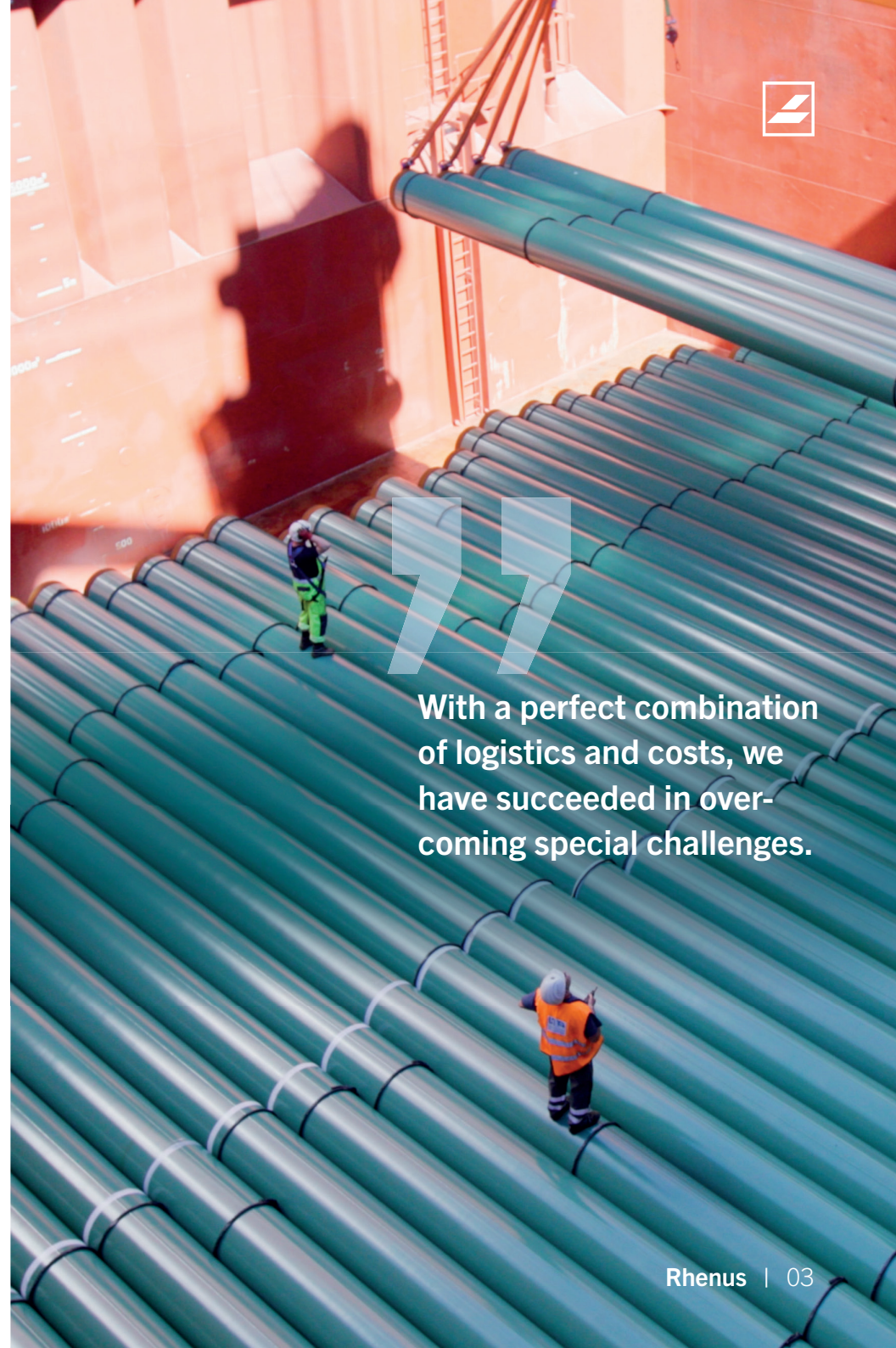
Transport planning and equipment requirements

Rhenus Maritime Services had to meet particular requirements when transporting the pipes. Special supporting blocks made of wood were necessary to ensure safe transportation – so-called pipe troughs, which a local dealer cut to size to match the pipes' diameter. When unloading the pipes at the destination port, the company had to ensure that this only took place using the ship's own cranes and not the port cranes. Special pipe hooks were necessary for the transshipment to protect the pipes, which were encased in plastic. Finally, it was essential to coordinate the transport operations for the pipes from the port to the storage facility with local authorities as this involved 900 truck movements within a period of four

weeks, i.e. directing, directing about 50 trucks with trailers that were up to 26 metres long through the town every day.

Cost-efficient pipe logistics for a shipping route that is used less frequently

The location of the planned pipeline also involved a small-scale challenge. "The main route used by shipping companies is on the east coast of the USA and Canada, less so on the west coast," says Mathias Lueg, Chartering & Sales Manager at Rhenus Maritime Services, explaining the problem. "This affects the pricing and the possibility of finding attractive return loads. We resolved this issue by restricting our services to a single shipment and being able to find a good mix for logistics operations and costs."



“
With a perfect combination of logistics and costs, we have succeeded in overcoming special challenges.”



Solution

In search of a specialist for pipeline logistics

However, before all this can take place, the 3,600 pipes needed to construct the pipeline first had to be delivered; altogether, they weigh 16,900 tonnes – and each one is about 18 metres long and has a diameter of 600 millimetres. The manufacturer, Europipe, a large pipe specialist for the oil and gas industry, placed the order for transport services with Rhenus Maritime Services (RMS) based in Duisburg: and this involved not only making a seagoing vessel available at the loading port of Bremen, but also delivering the pipes to a storage facility located about five kilometres away from the port of Squamish.

Cooperation between several units at Rhenus Maritime Services

The team comprising several units at Rhenus and Rhenus Maritime Services pooled their resources to complete this order: RMS Projects in Eckernförde chartered the seagoing vessel, which was 180 metres long, 30 metres wide, and had a payload capacity of 35,000 tonnes. RMS Bremen handled the clearance, i.e. completing all the formalities for the vessel. Finally, Rhenus Logistics Canada was the main partner for the entire logistics operations in Canada, which involved unloading the ship, temporarily storing the pipes at the port and transporting them to the storage facility by truck, where the pipes are being kept until the start of the construction work on the pipeline.



Conclusion

Smooth passage through the Panama Canal

There was only one other obstacle to overcome on the maritime route: the Panama Canal. This had experienced major problems with low water levels during the months prior to the transport operation. This can cause significant delays for ships making their way through the canal. The shipping company had also informed Rhenus Maritime Services in advance that the vessel might have to wait up to 20 days near the Panama Canal before

it could pass through it. However, in the end, everything went according to schedule – and was even completed faster than the set time limit of 90 days.

“The logistics concept drawn up by Rhenus Maritime Services was very credible in our view – particularly when it was subsequently concluded within just 70 days,” says the customer’s spokesperson, Claus Matuszczak, Logistics Manager at Europipe, summing things up. As a result, all 3,600 pipes are now available for constructing the planned LNG pipeline even earlier than planned. This marks the successful completion of the project for all those involved.



Time target for the overall project undercut by 22 %

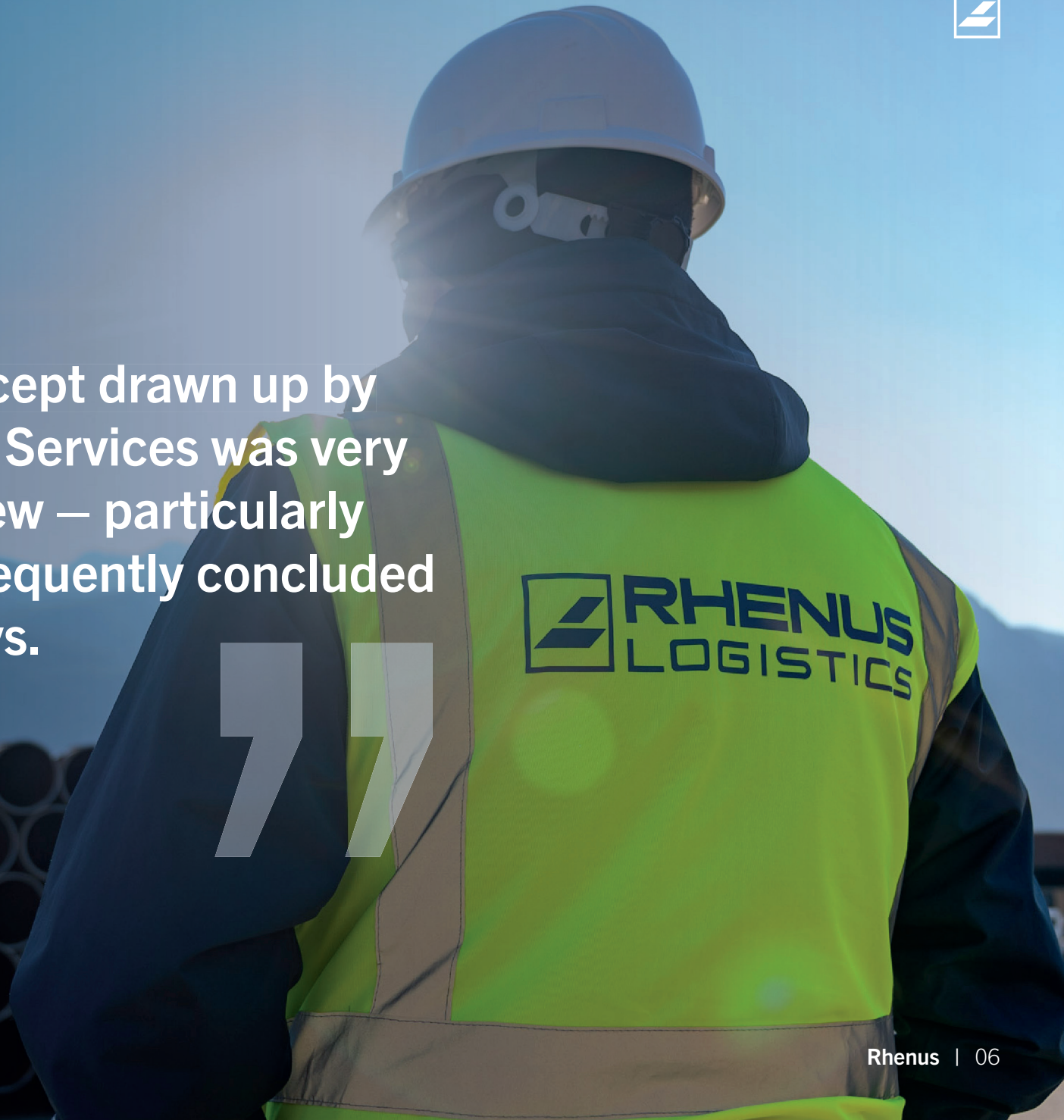


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Claus Matuszczak

Logistics Manager
Europipe GmbH





Who we are

The Rhenus Group — Our global presence

The Rhenus Group is one of the leading logistics specialists with global business operations and an annual turnover amounting to EUR 8.6 billion. 39,000 employees work at 1,120 business sites and develop innovative solutions along the complete supply chain. Whether providing transport, warehousing, customs clearance or value-added services, the family-owned business pools its operations in various business units, with customers' needs remaining the major focus at all times.

1,120
locations worldwide

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8,6 billion
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Together with passion

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