



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Media contact: Anna Williams (Marketing)

0151 708 8000

[Anna.williams@bibbymarine.com](mailto:Anna.williams@bibbymarine.com)

### **Bibby Marine signs The Neptune Declaration helping resolve a humanitarian crisis at sea:**

Bibby Marine (Bibby) are pleased to announce they have signed The Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change. This declaration aims to improve the current living condition for seafarers and to ensure that the current crew change crisis is quickly resolved. Bibby is fully committed to the importance of crew wellbeing and have committed to their own, Wellbeing at Sea programme for crew, in collaboration with The Sailors Society. As an organisation with over 200 years in the maritime industry Bibby has always encouraged wider protection of seafarer's rights and had no hesitation in supporting the aims of the declaration. Currently 450 companies and organisations have joined the declaration and the signatory list is expanding daily. Fellow signatories of the declaration include Shell, Unilever and the International Chamber of Shipping amongst others.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented crew change crisis leading to countless seafarers being left stranded on ships, beyond their contract's expiry dates. Despite efforts by international organisations, governments, and other bodies the issue is still unresolved. Seafarers are being treated in an unacceptable manner - they are the frontline workers of the maritime industry carrying 90% of global trade. Fatigue from prolonged periods at sea can detrimentally impact the physical and mental wellbeing of seafarers. It also increases the risk of maritime incidents and environmental disasters, threatening the integrity of global supply chains, which depend on safe and reliable maritime transport.

The non-profit foundation Global Maritime Forum has examined the crisis with Stakeholders from across the maritime value chain who have identified key issues such as:

- the lack of consistent health protocols
- the urgent need for high-quality crew change practice
- the disruption of international air travel.

The declaration recommends implementing the following actions:

- Recognise seafarers as key workers and give them priority access to Covid-19 vaccines
- Establish and implement gold standard health protocols based on existing best practice
- Increase collaboration between ship operators and charterers to facilitate crew change
- Ensure air connectivity between key maritime hubs for seafarers

To read more about the Neptune declaration please visit [www.globalmaritimeforum.org/neptune-declaration/](http://www.globalmaritimeforum.org/neptune-declaration/)

Please contact HR at Bibby Marine on [BMLHRAdmin@bibbymarine.com](mailto:BMLHRAdmin@bibbymarine.com) to learn more about the Wellbeing at Sea programme.

**ENDS**



### **About Bibby Marine**

Bibby Marine own and operate five floating accommodation vessels; namely the Bibby Challenge, Renaissance, Stockholm, Progress and Bergen all designed to provide nearshore floating accommodation services across the globe to a range of clients from construction through to hospitality. Bibby Marine is also the operator of niche marine assets owning and operating two Walk to Work Service Operations Vessels (W2W SOV); namely the Bibby WaveMaster 1 and Bibby WaveMaster Horizon. Bibby is a long-established widely recognised British, family-owned company.

Bibby Marine is a subsidiary of Bibby Line Group – a diverse, international business, operating in 12 countries, employing around 2,300 colleagues, and managing over £1billion of funds. Bibby Line Group is proud to deliver personal, responsive, and flexible solutions to customers since 1807. One of the longest established family businesses in the UK, the Group has companies in the financial services, retail, marine and infrastructure sectors. To find out more visit [www.bibbylinegroup.co.uk](http://www.bibbylinegroup.co.uk)