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***Vitters Shipyard and management of Claasen Shipyards
join forces and take over Claasen Shipyards***

Two of the leading superyacht builders in the Netherlands have joined forces. Vitters Shipyard and the management of Claasen Shipyards have together acquired Claasen Shipyards and will now form the new owners and management team of the yard. The combination creates significant added value for Vitters and Claasen as they leverage on their individual strengths to operate in tandem while continuing their yachtbuilding activities in the manner that has earned both yards an excellent reputation.

“Claasen Shipyards has a fine team of people with considerable skills and experience, and we are delighted to welcome them as colleagues,” comments Louis Hamming, CEO of Vitters Shipyard. “The yard has built an impressive fleet over the years and the exceptional expertise of the Claasen craftsmen is completely in line with the identity of Vitters. Moreover, their rich knowledge and experience of building and engineering a J-Class yacht will be a major asset to Vitters.”

Green Marine, builder of many famous composite yachts, residing in Southampton in the UK is member of the group. Green Marine will still build hulls for third parties and will have the opportunity to be fitted out at both Claasen and Vitters. This is another opportunity for Vitters, Green and Claasen to benefit from each other’s markets and expertise.

“Joining forces with Vitters Shipyard is a great chance for Claasen to grow further in the niche market in which we operate,” adds Joachim Kieft, CEO of Claasen Shipyards. “This development will make it possible for us to achieve our ambitious goals for the coming years.”

The individual business formulas and working methods of the companies will remain the same within the new set-up. Both yards will retain their distinctive brand identity and serve specific areas of the superyacht market. At a management level, Claasen and Vitters will make and share agreements with each other in regular meetings. There will also be closer ties in the project management, with the two yards working with the same suppliers/contractors in the first-class maritime infrastructure in the Netherlands. Marketing activities will also be combined, starting with a joint stand currently at the Boot Dusseldorf show 2016.

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Projects

Both yards currently have several projects under construction. Vitters Shipyard is working on a all-carbon 33-metre sailing yacht, a 32.50-metre Performance Cruising Sloop and the world's largest J-Class *Svea*. Claasen will be closely involved in the latter project while construction proceeds apace on the third Truly Classic 90. Designed by Hoek Design Naval Architects, *Acadia* will be launched in March. Claasen is also currently busy with a 77 ft Pilot Classic and various refit projects.

The diversity of these projects reinforces the fact that the new relationship between Vitters and Claasen will offer a wide range of benefits for owners now and in the future. For more information, interested parties are welcome to the joint stand at Boot Düsseldorf, stand 7a/G07.

Note for editors, not for publication: For more information or high res images, contact Elise Brouwer on: +31 383 867 145 or ebrouwer@vitters.com or Anco Kok on: +31 610 355 794 ak@claasenshipyards.com.

About Vitters Shipyard

Vitters Shipyard is a renowned builder of luxury sailing yachts and has completed many custom builds up to 85 metres in the past 25 years. The yard's unique high-quality yachts win regattas, host family get-aways and turn heads for their looks wherever they are in the world. Vitters Shipyard constantly strives to make the impossible possible onboard and to deliver extraordinary yachts to the specific requirements of their owners.

About Claasen Shipyards

Claasen Shipyards is one of the leading superyacht builders in the Netherlands. Its impressive fleet includes many Truly Classics and the J-Class *Lionheart*. At its location in Zaandam, close to Amsterdam, the yard is renowned for combining traditional Dutch craftsmanship with the latest technologies. Flexible and innovative, Claasen builds classic sail yachts and fast racing cruisers up to 65 metres. It has all the key disciplines in-house, including aluminium construction, interiors and painting.