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# HOCKEMA GROUP

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NAVAL ARCHITECTS ♦ MARINE ENGINEERS ♦ ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS



## **Haleakala Christening 04.25.2022: Hal Hockema Comments, Hockema Group Chairman**

In 1999 I worked on a hopper barge major conversion, into a self-propelled hopper dredge. The barge turned out to be Gunderson hull 44 and this was the first time I had been exposed to a barge built by Gunderson. I was thoroughly impressed by the workmanship of that barge, and also the drawing documentation. Little did I know at that time, that I would have a long and successful relationship with Gunderson Marine, now Greenbrier Marine.

In 2004, my naval architecture firm, Hal Hockema & Associates, merged with Mike Whalen's firm, Fisker-Andersen & Whalen. Mike already had designed numerous barges built by Gunderson. Mike retired recently but we still consult Mike on our barge designs.

Since that merger, Hockema Group has designed more barges, from 250' to 450' in length, most of which have been built right here in this facility. In every case, the construction quality of those barges has been excellent, and our relationship with Greenbrier has also been excellent.

Hockema Group's business philosophy is simple but important: We strive to design our vessels to the highest standards, we work closely with our clients to ensure that our designs are the safest and most efficient possible, and for each project we have a goal that everyone involved in the project is successful.

The Haleakala is the latest example of this business philosophy, incorporating an efficient hull form and topside cargo handling area, while ensuring that our client and others for which we have influence are successful. Our ultimate goal for the Haleakala is that Matson will have a top-tier deck cargo barge that will serve the Hawaiian Islands for decades to come.

I would like to thank the following people who are present here today:

- John Myers: Hockema Group's President since January 2021. John is doing a great job of leading our firm.
- Eric Blumhagen: Hockema Group's project naval architect for the Haleakala.
- Matson: The barge owner and who ultimately chose our design after operating the Mauna Loa for a few years, a similar barge to the Haleakala.
- Rick Hunt and Mark Eitzen at Greenbrier, who have shown confidence in Hockema Group for many years.
- Greenbrier's production planning staff, who we work closely with to ensure the barges are builder-friendly.
- And a big THANK YOU to the people who do the real work out here in the shipyard, building the barges.

Thank you all.