

PRESS RELEASE 16th April 2024

## **PEMA Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary at its AGM 2024 in Ireland with its largest international members event**



### **Record numbers of the port manufacturing representative association gather in Killarney, Ireland for 20th anniversary celebrations and PEMA AGM 2024.**

Welcomed to Ireland for the first time to celebrate the PEMA 20th anniversary and attend the 2024 AGM, PEMA members and delegates from every corner of the world gathered at The Europe Resort & Hotel in Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland.

Held in one of the most stunning landscapes, Killarney, home of the manufacturing plant of Liebherr Container Cranes, the Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th April 2024. Members, invited guests and speakers were welcomed to Ireland to network, participate in panel discussions and technical committee meetings. The participants

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were treated to an exclusive Liebherr factory tour, heard insightful speakers, and enjoyed networking events including the 20th anniversary celebration Liebherr Gala Dinner.

With 170 attendees the two day event facilitated the meeting of friends and colleagues and was an opportunity for members and associates to mingle in idyllic surroundings. PEMA was especially pleased to welcome senior representatives and guests associated with the Port and Terminal industry.

The 2-day event began with Liebherr Factory Tours which provided an insightful look at the manufacturing process of ship to shore and yard container handling cranes. The state-of-the-art plant is home to the design, production and service of bespoke port equipment which maximizes productivity with a particular focus on efficiency, safety, and sustainability.

The afternoon was followed by Technical Committee Meetings moderated by PEMA's Head of Technology, Pat O'Leary, who was joined by the chairs and vice-chairs of PEMA's three Technical Committees. Invited speaker Pietro Foschi, former executive director of BSi gave a presentation on the criteria and process for the development of International standards.

Over the course of the afternoon, participants provided insights and had in-depth discussions on technical issues relating to the sector and on the white papers topics under development and planned.

Prior to the commencement of the AGM on Thursday morning, PEMA President Achim Dries invited Patricia Rűf and Dominique Popesco, wife of the late PEMA President Ottonel to plant a tree in celebration of the PEMA 20th year anniversary on the Avenue of Appreciation and as part of The Europe Hotel & Resort commitment to sustainability.

*"Plant a native Irish tree and leave a positive, lasting contribution to the local environment"*

PEMA President, Achim Dries officially opened the AGM , welcoming all members, delegates and guest speakers to the PEMA AGM 2024 and the 20th anniversary celebrations, Achim gave an overview of the association's activities and plans stating,

*"A warm Irish welcome to the PEMA AGM 2024, a special occasion as we also celebrate our 20th year anniversary. This meeting will serve as a platform for sharing experiences, addressing challenges, and setting forth ambitious goals. Together, we will not only strengthen professional connections but also reinforce the personal friendships that define and sustain our industry. Thank you for being part of PEMA's remarkable journey. Here's to two decades of achievements, and to the exciting future that lies ahead."*

Keynote speaker Patricia Rűf, member of the supervisory board of the Liebherr Group and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation of the Liebherr family provided an insight into the Liebherr organisation that is celebrating its 75th Anniversary during 2024. *"Our deepest appreciation to you, the PEMA members for coming to Killarney and to our hotel for this event. We hope that you can use this*

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*gathering as an opportunity to forge new alliances, to learn from one another, and to explore the vast potential that lies ahead while toasting our two anniversaries - Liebherr celebrating 75 years and PEMA 20 years”.*

**Patricia Rűf, Supervisory Board Member, Liebherr International, 3rd Generation of the Liebherr family.**

Two outgoing members of the board of directors Jens Koerting and Leopold Bertold were re-elected and two new directors Mauriziol Bragagni of Tratos and Stephan Trauth of Mi-Jack Europe were elected to replace Jon Sojo and Rino Bedeschi who retired.

Jean O'Connell presented a detailed update of PEMA's marketing activities & events since the PEMA AGM 2023, including planned future activity. The growth in interaction with the PEMA platform and the increase in membership engagement since the new brand and website launch was highlighted. Details of the PEMA members event in Autumn 2024 in Antwerp were presented including live bookable links for the [Autumn 2024 Event](#).

An update on the technical activities of PEMA over the past year was presented by Pat O'Leary including the Ottonel Popesco student challenge, white paper status, and engagement with various events and associations.

PEMA was delighted to welcome six international guest speakers from the port industry Richard Steele (CEO, ICHCA International), Paul Avery (World Cargo News), Leticia Astudillo, (Deputy Director, Drewry Maritime Advisors) Ernst Schulze (CEO, DP World UK), Pat O'Brennan (Deputy CEO, Doyle Shipping Group) and Carl-Henry Piel (CTO, Terminal, Investment Ltd.(TIL)).

Sharing their thoughts, each of the speakers addressed a variety of topics relevant to the industry including their insights into the key challenges, how they plan to mitigate these and the opportunities that exist in a changing landscape.

PEMA would like to thank all those who traveled from all over the world to attend the event in Ireland this April. President Achim Dries also thanked the board members, Pat O'Leary Head of Technology, and Jean and Laura for their ongoing support and commitment in delivering such a successful event in Ireland and our heartfelt gratitude to our event sponsors **Liebherr, Prysman, SIBRE & EMG, VAHLE and Fáilte Ireland.**

## **About PEMA**

Founded in 2004, PEMA (Port Equipment Manufacturers Association) provides a forum and public voice for the global port equipment and technology sectors. The association has seen strong growth in recent years and now has 127 member companies representing all facets of

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the industry including crane, equipment and component manufacturers, automation, software and technology providers, consultants, and other experts. [www.pema.org](http://www.pema.org)

**- ENDS -**

**Editors Notes**

**Names for photos (L to R)**

**PEMA P1** - L-R (Head of Technology Pat O Leary, PEMA President, Achim Dries, Leopold Berthold, Dominique Popesco & Patricia Rűf, Supervisory Board Member, Liebherr International)

**PEMA P2 New PEMA Board** - L-R Stephan Trauth, Leopold Berthold, President, Achim Dries, Jens Koerting, Lisette Stinis and Head of Technology Pat O' Leary.

**PEMA P3** - L-R Patricia Rűf, Supervisory Board Member, Liebherr International), PEMA President & Dominique Popesco

**PEMA P4 - L-R (Back Row:** Pat Brennan, Doyle Shipping Group, Ernst Schulze, DP World UK, Paul Avery, World Cargo News, Richard Steele, ICHCA, Carl-Henry Piel, TIL, Jens Koerting, PEMA, Stephan Trauth, PEMA, Pietro Foschi, Formerly BSI, Pat O' Leary, PEMA, Leopold Berthold, PEMA) **(Front Row:** Leticia Astudillo, Drewry, Dominique Popesco, Achim Dries, PEMA, Patricia Rűf, Supervisory Board Member Liebherr International, Lisette Stinis, PEMA)

**PEMA P5 Group Photo AGM & 20th Celebration**

**For queries, further information and additional photos please contact:**

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