

Arctic Passion News

1 / 2024

Dear Reader,

This is my final editorial for Arctic Passion News. The decision to leave Aker Arctic has not been an easy one, as I have been part of the company for many years, and I have truly enjoyed my time here.

I am proud of Aker Arctic

and of the company's achievements over the past years and decades. Even more importantly, it has been a privilege to have been able to work with all our clients, designing and developing icebreaking ships for you.

The exceptional results were only made possible through the close cooperation between our highly motivated and passionate personnel and demanding clients, with whom it has always been a pleasure to work. Exceeding a client's expectations and bringing something new to the table always felt personally rewarding.

Although climate change

is influencing the icebreaking business in various ways, we are once again reminded of the cold weather and difficult winter conditions in the Baltic Sea as I write this in late January. All the Finnish and Swedish icebreakers are currently in operation.

Naturally, this reminds us of not only the necessity of icebreaking but also the challenges for the design of future vessels. How can we achieve the tightening environmental needs of tomorrow while maintaining safe and effective winter navigation? I believe this is one of the key development areas for icy regions relying on sea transportation.

Recent years have been globally dramatic,

leading to changes in our business environment. Therefore, at Aker Arctic, we have added some new directions to our strategy that build upon our unique ice know-how and capabilities. Continuing the company's development towards these targets will be an important focus for the new management.

The foundation is solid, as we have reached a position as the leading company in our business segment. The financial situation is excellent, the order book is healthy, and most importantly, the expertise of our employees is at a very high level.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues, our customers, and stakeholders for these magnificent years working together on icebreaking issues at Aker Arctic.

I feel confident passing the helm

to the new interim Managing Director, Mika Hovilainen. He has worked at Aker Arctic for many years, most recently leading our ship design activities, ensuring a smooth transition for the company.

Sincerely yours,

Reko-Antti Suojanen
(Managing Director of Aker Arctic 2014 – 2024)

