



## LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS HOLDINGS, INC. CELEBRATES KEEL LAYING OF FIRST POLAR NEW BUILD

### **\*\*ANNOUNCING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDURANCE\*\***

NEW YORK, NY, March 2018 --- Lindblad Expeditions Holdings, Inc., a global provider of expedition cruises and adventure travel experiences, and Ulstein Group, Norwegian shipbuilder and ship designer, today celebrated the keel laying of Lindblad's first polar new build at the CRIST shipyard in Gdynia, Poland. The occasion marked a major milestone in the construction of the world's most sophisticated expedition ship, and served as the official naming ceremony of the line's latest addition to the [Lindblad-National Geographic](#) fleet.

"We are thrilled to announce the name of our new polar ship: [National Geographic Endurance](#), due for delivery in the first quarter of 2020," announced Sven Lindblad, President and CEO of Lindblad Expeditions. "She is named in honor of Ernest Shackleton, Lindblad Expeditions' most revered explorer and will incorporate technical advances and create opportunities for guests beyond the reach of any contemporary ship."

"A Polar Class 5 rating gives us the ability to operate the ship freely at any time of year in polar environments vastly expanding our polar range," Lindblad continued. "This means we can explore deeper into the pack ice, or further north to the unexplored reaches of the arctic. For instance, northern Ellesmere Island, where only a relative handful of people have ever been. Or some of the completely off-the-beaten-path arctic islands that are remote, pristine and teeming with wildlife."

The ceremony continued with the traditional laying of the coins. First welded was a newly minted commemorative silver coin etched with the name of the ship, flanked by a polar bear and penguin signifying the two poles she will be exploring, and etched with *To Explore and Understand the World*. And to signify Lindblad's commitment to their expedition team and crew, Sven laid the lucky coin of iconic Lindblad naturalist, Tom Ritchie, a 1780 Austro-Hungarian thaler [silver dollar] with Marie Theresa on one side and a double-headed eagle on the other.

Joining the Lindblad team in Poland for the occasion was Trey Byus, Chief Expedition Officer; Tyler Skarda, Senior VP, Marine Operations; Captain Leif Skog, VP, Nautical and Ice Captain, and Nikolaos Doulis, Senior VP, New Buildings. Present for Ulstein was Gunvor Ulstein CEO Ulstein Group and Managing Director Ulstein Shipping; Tore Ulstein, Chair of the Board and Deputy CEO Ulstein Group; Kristian Sætre, Managing Director, Ulstein Verft; and Per Svein Brekke, Project Responsible. Among the CRIST representatives were Ireneusz Ćwirko, Chair of the Managing Board and Krzysztof Kulczycki, Chair of the Supervising Board.

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“We are excited to be witnessing this important milestone for the new exploration cruise vessel for Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic. We look forward to the arrival of the hull to our shipyard, Ulstein Verft, for the completion of this innovative vessel,” stated Gunvor Ulstein, CEO, Ulstein Group.

The state-of-the-art 126-guest polar vessel has been designed as the ultimate expedition platform with a focus on safety and comfort, as well as incorporating innovative sustainability solutions to reduce its environmental impact. A core feature is Ulstein’s signature X-BOW®, a distinctive bow that provides fuel efficiency while significantly improving guest comfort in rough seas; and a very high ice class for access deep into polar regions. The ship’s expanded fuel and water tanks provide for extended operations in remote areas; while the zero-speed stabilizers will ensure stability, whether at zero speed or full steam ahead.

Immediately following the ceremony, Sven Lindblad, Trey Byus, and Captain Leif Skog departed to Longyearbyen to embark on a reconnaissance expedition that will yield discoveries for more exhilarating 2020 early season Arctic adventures for *National Geographic Endurance*.

#### **About Lindblad Expeditions Holdings, Inc.**

Lindblad Expeditions Holdings, Inc. is an expedition travel company that works in partnership with National Geographic to inspire people to explore and care about the planet. The organizations work in tandem to produce innovative marine expedition programs and to promote conservation and sustainable tourism around the world. The partnership’s educationally oriented voyages allow guests to interact with and learn from leading scientists, naturalists and researchers while discovering stunning natural environments, above and below the sea, through state-of-the-art exploration tools. For more information visit us at [www.expeditions.com](http://www.expeditions.com) or find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).

#### **About Ulstein Group**

ULSTEIN has 600 employees and is headquartered in Ulsteinvik, Norway. ULSTEIN delivers products and services within ship design, shipbuilding and equipment packages to the international market. In 2017, they celebrate their 100-year anniversary. Throughout a century they have created tomorrow’s solutions for sustainable marine operations together with their partners. Ulstein Verft has built over 300 vessels, and more than a hundred vessels from Ulstein Group are delivered with the characteristic X-BOW®. For more information visit: [www.ulstein.com](http://www.ulstein.com).

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For images of the coins laid at the keel laying; Tom Ritchie and his lucky coin, and renderings of the *National Geographic Endurance*:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0ftu5ozma2fbd7c/AAA4AksZcByyvL\\_w3uLbakKMa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0ftu5ozma2fbd7c/AAA4AksZcByyvL_w3uLbakKMa?dl=0)

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