

Briese Schiffahrts GmbH & Co. KG | Hafenstr. 12 | 26789 Leer | Germany  
To whom it may concern

your reference: -/  
our sign: -/  
responsible: Marcel Deeke  
telefon: +49 491 92520 163  
date: 2024-06-04

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We as Briese Schiffahrts GmbH & Co. KG, Research I Forschungsschiffahrt are the managers of eight different research vessels, which are owned either by the Federal Republic of Germany or by a State of Germany since more than 20 years. In this regard we are also responsible for the technical management and operation of the research vessel SONNE (IMO 9633927), which is in service since 2014.

The research vessel SONNE is mainly engaged in research operations within the Pacific Ocean Area. Therefore the vessel was calling for the port of Vancouver, Canada from 2022-09-06 to 2022-09-13. Main reasons for the port call were, but are not limited to:

- Demobilization of research cruise "SO293"
- Mobilization of research cruise "SO294"
- Exchange of maritime crew members
- Exchange of scientific crew members
- Arranging supplies to the vessel, such as stores, bunkers, provisions and spares
- Conducting technical repairs, such as an overhaul of two diesel generators.

From our point of view, this port call was quite challenging due to special requirements by the authorities, port operators as well as by the unions. Also, it need to be taken in account, that there was a lack of available berths in fall 2022, which was leading to further constraints in regards of the aforementioned port call.

However, thanks to the very good and reliable support of Mr. Jon R. Ciobanu, Maritime Port Agent at GFY Marine Group, we were able to conduct all necessary operations in time, so the ship was able to depart to its designated research area without any delay.

This was not a matter of course, as we were struggling with a lot of different challenges. Therefore, we would like to take the chance to thank Mr. Ciobanu for his engagement for our research vessel SONNE.

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We are looking forward to work with him in the future. Furthermore, we like to recommend him as port agent to any other shipping company – especially, if non-standard port services are required.

You may contact us at any time, if you've further questions.

Kind regards

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Marcel Deeke

Briese Schifffahrts GmbH & Co. KG  
Research | Forschungsschiffahrt