

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Swire Shipping steps onboard as major sponsor for Fijian Drua

*Sponsorship underpins Swire Shipping's ongoing commitment to developing young Fijian rugby talent for the global stage and as part of its overall focus on the Pacific*

17 November 2021

**Singapore:** As part of its commitment to developing young Fijian rugby talent for the global stage as well as to underscore its strong, historical bonds with the Pacific region, Swire Shipping today announced that it has signed a two-year sponsorship deal which will see the company become the branding and naming rights sponsor to the Fijian Drua, Super Rugby Pacific's newest professional Club. The Swire Shipping Fijian Drua will make its Super Rugby Pacific debut in February 2022.

“Over the years, we have seen immense talent from both young men and women at grassroots rugby in Fiji. Through our sponsorship, we hope to inspire them and to provide them a springboard to enter the professional competition for rugby in the region,” said Alex Pattison, Swire Shipping's Regional Manager for the Pacific Islands. “Also, we understand the importance of what the Drua means to the community, the economy and the positivity it will bring to Fiji, after 18 tumultuous months of Covid.”

Swire Shipping has a close association with Fiji rugby, having been a sponsor since 2017. The company is already a naming rights sponsor of the Swire Fijian Warriors, the representative Fijian team participating in the Pacific Nations Cup. “As with this latest sponsorship, our involvement in the Warriors partnership was – and still is – to give young players the opportunity to develop their rugby and life skills.”



Fijian Drua Interim CEO Brian Thorburn welcomed the major sponsor into the Club family: “We are grateful and honoured that our team will become the Swire Shipping Fijian Drua as of today. As our foundation naming rights and branding sponsor, Swire Shipping has effectively secured its place in Fijian professional rugby history. The synergy between our organisations is quite poetic, and we share similar values of quality and excellence. We are delighted to set sail on our maiden voyage with Swire Shipping and are confident that it will be a mutually beneficial journey.

The Swire Shipping Fijian Drua will prominently feature the major sponsor on the team’s playing and training kits, along with other off-field apparel.

“To secure such a renowned and respected company as a major sponsor is yet another show of confidence by partners in our franchise. The Fijian Drua may be a young Club, but it is one with very strong roots. Today’s announcement marks a significant milestone as we steam ahead to finalise all required resources, logistics, our first ever squad, as well as our coaching and management team. We are on a mission to prove that we belong in Super Rugby Pacific and are single-mindedly focussed on making all our stakeholders and fans proud.”

Announced recently, the Super Rugby Pacific competition has included Moana Pasifika as part of the new 12-team approach. Moana Pasifika comprises players who identify with Pacific Island nations. Ten Super clubs from New Zealand and Australia – in which Swire Shipping also has a strong market presence – will join this competition as well.

***Fiji an important hub; Swire’s commitment on other fronts***

Fiji is an important hub for Swire Shipping, facilitating its liner, bulk and inland logistics businesses. Over the years, the Company has grown deep roots in the country, building close partnerships with its customers and industry players as well as with its own teams.

Beyond rugby, Swire Shipping is also deeply involved in several other major projects in the Pacific. It is working with the Micronesian Centre for Sustainable Transport (MCST) at the University of the South Pacific (USP) to support Project Cerulean which is the development of a low-carbon, low-tech, low-cost sail-assisted cargo ship to serve outlying islands that are depopulating in the Pacific Islands.



Under the Moana Taka Partnership and through Swire Shipping, private sector companies can move recyclable waste streams, where they are accumulating, out of the Pacific Island Countries & Territories (PICTs), to countries with competent, certified and sustainable recycling plants. This thus protects and improves the environment in the Pacific region. In 2020, CNCo shipped out 217.83 tonnes of low value recyclable waste which otherwise would have ended up in local landfills.

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### **About Swire Shipping**

Dedicated to facilitating and growing trade in regions where it operates, Swire Shipping provides several high frequency liner shipping services in the Asia Pacific markets providing a wide range of specialist customer solutions for project, heavy lift, refrigerated, breakbulk and mini bulk cargoes. It connects 400 ports via an extensive network of services in the Asia-Pacific and globally, and maintains a worldwide agency network in addition to its own representative offices across the Asia-Pacific, Pacific Islands, North America and Europe, providing its customers with dedicated service and expert market knowledge. In July 2021, Swire Shipping ventured into landside logistics services to offer its customers even greater convenience and seamless connectivity while reducing supply chain risk and complexities. These services include customs clearance, inland transportation services and cargo management solutions, which will complement its existing liner shipping products.

Swire Projects, a division under Swire Shipping Pte. Ltd., was established in October 2020 to provide specialist shipping services to the energy, renewable and infrastructure sector. By bringing together trade routes, a diversified fleet and technical expertise across the Swire Group's marine activities, Swire Projects is set to lead a smart network of resources, enabling highly efficient, trusted and flexible shipping solutions to service clients in the project logistics sector, particularly project forwarders, EPCs, Heavy Civil and offshore energy construction players. For more information, please see <https://www.swireprojects.com>.



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