



# Information about the 9<sup>th</sup> National Maritime Conference

The key event in this year's maritime calendar will be the 9<sup>th</sup> National Maritime Conference taking place in Bremerhaven from 19–20 October 2015. It will be used to present specific recommendations for action – providing important input for the maritime industry in Germany for the next few years. Moving away from the conference model used in previous years, the Federal Government has consciously altered the form and areas of focus of the event.

The overall concept of the National Maritime Conference has been modernised. The various workshops that have hitherto been hosted as part of the conference have now been replaced by seven preparatory branch-specific forums – taking place across the first six months of the year. The results of the branch-specific forums are to be fed into a Maritime Strategy which will be presented by the Federal Government's Maritime Coordinator as part of this year's conference. The aim of the new model is to make the dialogue between the various actors more transparent and more results-focused.

The branch-specific forums are dealing with the key topics of offshore wind energy, shipbuilding and maritime technologies, ports and logistics, shipping, climate and environmental protection in maritime shipping, and maritime security. The first of these forums is the offshore wind energy forum taking place in Bremerhaven on 9 March 2015. These dialogue platforms will continue to be hosted by the relevant lead ministries within the Federal Government, with the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy responsible for assimilating the final reports.

In terms of content, we want this year's conference to lay a greater focus on topics at European and international level. There is considerable potential for the sector in the area of research and development in particular – which is an area that we want to promote accordingly. The special capacity of German firms to innovate – especially in the maritime industry – is a key focus within our policy-making.

Beyond our work at national level, we must now seek to strengthen cooperation at international level in the maritime industry in particular. We want to use this year's conference to open new doors to this work. We also seek to raise the public profile of the sector as being a high-tech industry.

The shift from traditional container shipbuilding towards specialist shipbuilding led to positive figures for German shipyards last year. Germany's energy transition is also opening up new production potential for the industry. The sea is becoming ever more important as a supplier of raw materials, which means the importance of deep-sea mining is also growing. This is why the maritime industry has also been adopted as part of the Federal Government's High-tech Strategy. A further strategic instrument for the industry is the National Maritime Technologies Masterplan which is currently at the development stage. The maritime industry is of central importance in responding to key issues facing our generation – climate change and the energy transition, the scarcity of raw materials, and the increase in traffic flows. The National Maritime Conference, which takes place every two years, has established itself as a central platform for dialogue between all of the different maritime stakeholders.

The 9<sup>th</sup> National Maritime Conference will demonstrate that the maritime industry is of strategic importance for the future of Germany's industrial base.