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MSC completes deal for 49% of Messina Group and four conro ships

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Gianluigi Aponte's Italian holding company Marinvest and Messina Group have formally signed an agreement which makes MSC the new owner of four ships and a minority stake in the Genoa-based shipping company.

Aponte will invest €25m (\$28.5m) for a 49% stake in the Ignazio Messina & C. group and a 52% stake in a new vehicle controlling four of Messina's eight modern conro ships. The vessels are set to be 52% controlled by MSC are *Jolly Diamante*, *Jolly Perla*, *Jolly Titanio* and *Jolly Cobalto*.

Messina has a financial exposure of over €450m (\$515m) mainly with Banca Carige related to fleet renovation plan completed in the last few years, with 8 new conro ships built in South Korea by Daewoo and STXshipyards from 2011 to 2015.

In addition to the fresh capital Gianluigi Aponte will put into the Genoa-based shipping company, the Messina family will put €5m on the table to re-launch the business which will benefit from several operative synergies between the Italian and the Swiss firms.

The agreement is subject to the relevant approvals.

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