



# 20

**20 years ago,  
to the day:**

**On the 13th of  
November 1998  
OOC's  
foundation  
was laid.**

## **OPIELOK OFFSHORE CARRIERS**

Providers and Operators of Modern Offshore Platform Supply Vessels

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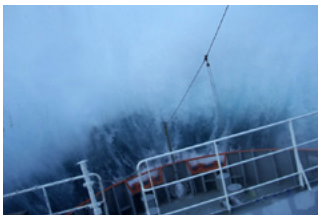
“On the Friday the 13th of November 1998, 20 years ago, to the day,  
I laid the foundation for my shipping company Opielok Offshore Carriers.”



Profit centre CHRISTINE O.



Owner and master on the first vessel.



White water on deck.



OOC today: State-of-the-art.

Independent. And always ready to go.



Two Damen 3200 Clean Design PSVs joined the OOC fleet 2018.

On the 13th of November 1998, a Friday, I took over my first vessel, CHRISTINE O, a 145 TEU coaster named after my wife. I had purchased it pre-owned with a 100% loan from my bank. The surety comprised my humble savings and a charter contract to ship containers between Avonmouth (UK, Bristol Channel) to Waterford (South Coast of Ireland). As a young ship owner and master mariner, I captained my vessel every fortnight. Christine managed the spare parts supply, provisioning and crewing from our home in Hamburg; the relief-captain arrived per ferry with a car-load of foodstuffs, and the homeward bound master returned back to Germany with the vehicle ready for a refill.

That 13th of November 1998 was one of those days one never forgets. I had taken possession on my “new” ship in Dublin and painted its new name on the bow. Together with my crew, two German officers and six Philippine sailors, we set off to the UK. The Met Office’s forecast was deplorable. A normal crossing takes 15 hours. But this one took 48 hours. We battled head-on a force eleven gale, eight meter seas and a powerful ebb tide sweeping out of the Bristol Channel. But we persevered. The bank loan was paid back 2003 with a 4 million Euro excess. CHRISTINE O was the perfect example for an investor with guts and faith in his vision. From here my start-up moved on, has grown and since weathered shipping and the global economy’s troubles, crashes and disasters. Today, OOC Opielok Offshore Carriers continues to operate at full throttle and exists as the last modern, independent German offshore ship owning/operating business.

And so, today with this message, my thanks go to my friends, family, clients, staff and suppliers who travelled the road with me – and on a very personal note, my thoughts are with my founding partner Christine [\*16.6.1958, †2.4.2007].

*Christopher Opielok*

Christopher Opielok, Hamburg on the 13th of November 2018.

