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Founder of the Hanseatic Lloyd Group has died by Len Jones



19/03/2009

The board of the international shipping group Hanseatic Lloyd has announced that Harro Kniffka, its founder and chairman, passed away on March 16 after a short illness, just a few days after his 53rd birthday.

Kniffka started his career with Oltmann Reederei in Bremen, Germany in the 1970s and later gained experience as a chartering broker in New York. Returning to Germany, he joined shipowner and broker, Ernst Russ in Hamburg, before becoming managing director of Leonhardt & Blumberg Schiffahrtsgesellschaft.

In 1991 he co-founded Hansa Mare Reederei, of which he remained a shareholder, before moving on to form the Hanseatic Lloyd Group in 2001.