



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nautilus Ventures and Hansen-Mueller Announce Joint Venture, Hansen Metro Elevation (HME), and Long-Term Concession at Port of Houston

Houston, TX – May 24, 2024 – Nautilus Ventures, a subsidiary of Nautilus International Holding Corporation—home to Metro Ports, established in 1923—and Hansen-Mueller Company, a distinguished grain trading enterprise founded in 1979, are delighted to announce the formation of Hansen Metro Elevation (HME), a 50/50 joint venture. This strategic alliance signifies a pivotal milestone and demonstrates both companies' commitment to long-term growth in the Houston, TX area.

HME is the culmination of nearly three years of thoughtful collaboration between Nautilus and Hansen-Mueller. The partnership combines Nautilus' expertise in port operations with Hansen-Mueller's legacy of excellence in grain trading and logistics. With shared values and a common vision for the future, HME is poised to enhance the efficiency and reliability in cargo handling and transportation from the Port of Houston's Grain Elevator facilities.

The formation of HME was finalized in April, alongside the securing of a long-term concession with the Port of Houston for the historic grain elevator facility. This concession, with a total duration of up to 30 years, lays a solid foundation for future growth and investment in Texas. It underscores the commitment of HME to the region and its stakeholders and ensuring stability and improved efficiency for its customers.

Over the next 12-18 months, HME will invest up to \$9 million in capital to modernize the facility infrastructure and enhance cargo handling efficiencies. These investments will bolster HME's capabilities and competitiveness in the region. ***"By embracing innovation and our combined experience, HME aims to set new benchmarks for performance and customer satisfaction,"*** said Brian Johnson, Chief Commercial Officer of Nautilus International Holding Corp.

"The formation of HME represents a transformative step forward for both Nautilus and Hansen-Mueller," Brian continues. ***"Together, we are well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of our customers and drive sustainable growth in the years to come."***

"We are excited to embark on this journey with Nautilus and establish HME as a premier player in the industry," said Tyler Kester, President of Hansen-Mueller. ***"By combining our strengths and expertise, we will deliver unparalleled value to our customers and contribute to economic growth in the region."***

This partnership unites two esteemed privately held US companies to invest in and operate within one of the nation's most vital port complexes, providing comprehensive rail, truck, and maritime logistics services to the agricultural industry.