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Boluda snaps up Finnish icebreaker firm



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Spanish towage giant Boluda is pressing ahead with its expansion via the acquisition of the Finnish company Yxpila Hinaus-Bogsering (YHB).

YHB is a family-owned company that started operating more than 40 years ago, providing harbour towage and icebreaking services. The move will add six vessels to Boluda's fleet, five of them icebreakers.

Boluda said the operation consolidates its presence in Northern Europe and marks the entry into the Scandinavian countries by providing coverage in the Gulf of Bothnia ports of Kokkola, Vaasa, Raahé and Kemi.

Commenting on the acquisition, Vicente Boluda Fos, president of Boluda, stated: "This purchase is a further step in our consolidation in Northern Europe, a complex market where the experience and expertise of the crews are key to carry out towing and marine salvage operations in extreme conditions. In addition, we are opening the Scandinavian market, providing coverage to our customers in the northernmost part of the Baltic Sea."

The Kokkola docks have evolved considerably over the last decade, becoming one of Finland's major logistical facilities, with a focus on the mining sector, dry bulk, chemicals, and forestry.

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