

COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

The following is a company announcement issued by AST Group p.l.c. (the “**Company**”) bearing company registration number C 66811, in terms of the Capital Markets Rules issued by the MFSA.

CHANGE OF FLAG OF VESSELS

QUOTE

The Company hereby announces that, pursuant to a decision taken by the management of the Group and approved by the board of directors of the Company, the Group has changed the maritime flag of the MV AST Malta and the MV AST Rising from the Maltese Maritime Flag.

Consequent to the afore-mentioned change of flag, the MV AST Malta and the MV AST Rising were deleted from the Malta flag on 21 December 2023 pursuant to a request for voluntary closure of registry submitted by each of the ship owning companies. The MV AST Malta was registered under the Palau flag and the MV AST Rising was registered under the Marshall Islands Flag today the 21 December 2023.

Pursuant to the foregoing and in view of the fact that the MV AST Malta and the MV AST Rising form part of the security held by the security trustee in favour of Bondholders, the first priority mortgage on each of the MV AST Malta and the MV AST Rising previously registered with the Merchant Shipping Directorate within Transport Malta in favour of Onyx Trustees Limited as security trustee of the AST Trust II for the benefit of Bondholders were discharged on 21 December 2023. A corresponding first priority statutory mortgage over the MV AST Malta was registered at the Palau Ships Registry and a first priority statutory mortgage over the MV AST Rising was registered at the Marshall Islands Ships Registry as encumbrances over said vessels in favour of the Onyx Trustees Limited as security trustee of the AST Trust II for the benefit of Bondholders also on 21 December 2023.

The aforementioned vessels shall continue to carry their intended cargo, including grains and containers, thereby supporting the Group in the volume increase in the existing trade routes.

UNQUOTE



Katia Cachia
Company Secretary
21 December 2023