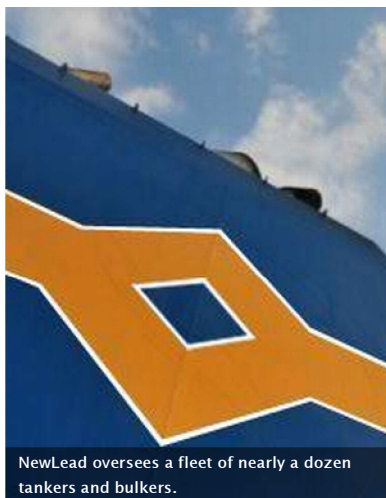


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## NewLead seals COA

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**Diversified Greek operator NewLead Holdings has lined up a contract-of-affreightment for one of its bitumen carriers.**



NewLead oversees a fleet of nearly a dozen tankers and bulkers.

In a statement the owner said the deal will keep the 3,400-dwt **Katerina L** (built 2009) employed for approximately ten months.

Under the terms of the contract the vessel must transport at least 31,000 tons of bitumen on behalf of the unidentified counterparty over the course of ten voyages.

If the charterer exercises an option, NewLead pointed out that the total could top 49,600 tons over 16 voyages.

"The Katerina L will be trading in the Mediterranean and United Arab Emirates areas between all the major refineries in the respective areas," the owner added.

The operator did not say how much revenue the vessel will generate over the course of the COA or shed light on the other terms of the freshly-minted deal.

NewLead broke into the bitumen market last month **after striking sale-and-purchase and sale-and-leaseback deals with a Greek compatriot.**

Today, the Michael Zolotas-led operator oversees a crude tanker, five bitumen carriers and an equal number of bulkers.

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AARON KELLEY IN STAMFORD 24 February 2015, 15:25 GMT