
NewLead inks period pact

NewLead Holdings has tied up one of its two remaining bulk carriers on a five-year period deal.



A day after painting a dire picture of its 2012 balance sheet, the Greek owner said its 76,000-dwt NewLead Victoria (built 2002) will join an unnamed charterer from June at \$11,700 per day until the end of next year.

That rate will jump to \$12,723 per day in 2015, \$12,918 in 2016 and \$13,016 in the final year of the contract.

NewLead will take home 60% of any profits the vessel achieves above those levels.

Michael Zolotas, CEO of NewLead, said: "We are pleased to announce that we have entered into a favourable charter contract for one of our vessels securing an increasing charter-out rate for five years while providing the opportunity to

capture market upside with profit sharing.

"This agreement demonstrates our ability to secure competitive rates and allows for earnings expansion when the market improves," he added.

NewLead's only other dry cargo vessel is the 71,200-dwt NewLead Markela (built 1990).

It also owns a pair of products tankers, the 37,000-dwt Axelot (ex-Hiotissa, built 2004) and Laima (ex-Hiona, built 2003).

The company has delayed the release of its full year earnings report because of the "complexity" of its recent entry into the commodities arena.

However it warned yesterday that the net loss is likely be at least 40% higher than the \$290.4m deficit carded the year before.