
NewLead takes flight

Shares of NewLead Holdings soared Friday after the Greek bulker and products tanker operator announced a definitive plan to cure a deficiency that jeopardised its Nasdaq listing.



While company's stock jumped 54.54% to \$0.15 in midday trading on the back of a sharp increase in volume observers note current levels are still far below a 52-week high of \$2.73.

The surge followed news that exchange regulators accepted NewLead's plan to regain compliance with listing requirements, which hinges on the filing of annual report for the year ended 31 December 2012 by 2 September.

In a statement the Athens-based operator said its ticker will be stripped from Nasdaq Global Select Market if it fails to meet the deadline, which was extended shortly after it received a 16 May deficiency notice.

When the issue first made headlines NewLead said the failure to file the report in a timely manner was the result of a transaction in which it traded nickel wire for shares, which prompted an investigation led by its audit committee.

The company pulled the plug on the deal in June when CEO Michael Zolotas admitted the value of the wire may have been overstated by as much as 99%, which didn't come as a surprise to **many observers as the price per ounce was far above that of gold and other precious metals.**

NewLead is based in Athens where it oversees two bulkers and a pair of products tankers in addition to a fledgling commodities business that has secured rights to mine coal and other mineral deposits in the US.

AARON KELLEY IN STAMFORD 09 August 2013, 17:10 GMT