
NewLead attracts investor

NewLead Holdings has received a huge investment from a mystery counterparty.



Michael Zolotas, CEO of NewLead

The New York-listed shipowner said the investor has pledged \$236.4m worth of nickel as a "contribution in kind" in return for a 36.8% shareholding.

The deal, which is subject to Nasdaq approval, will expand the outstanding number of shares in the Greek owner to just under 702 million units of common stock.

NewLead will use the commodity as collateral to raise funding for future projects, it said in an exchange release.

It stressed that the investor, whose identity the company declined to reveal, will not have board representation or other rights for its unregistered shares.

In addition the shareholder has agreed, subject to some exceptions, not to "pledge, borrow or dispose" of the shares or otherwise transfer ownership of the shares until 30 June next year.

Michael Zolotas, CEO of NewLead, said: "This significant investment demonstrates confidence in the management team and the future of NewLead."

"The investment will provide valuable collateral for loans funding our capital-intensive activities and provides a solid platform to execute on our diversified growth strategy."

[The injection comes off the back of a near \\$600m financial restructuring of the company just last month.](#)

09 January 2013, 14:14 GMT