

## NewLead takes delivery of third modern handysize bulker

- Monday 22 September 2014, 16:31
- by Nigel Lowry

Greek owner awaits approval to trade on OTCQB market but vows to continue rebuilding fleet

NEWLEAD Holdings has lifted its owned fleet to five bulk carriers as it seeks to revive its fortunes on the US over-the-counter market.

The Greece-based shipowner and commodities company has been trading on the OTC market since July when it took the decision to de-list from Nasdaq, where it had been listed since 2005, formerly as Aries Marine Transport.

The switch was voluntary, although it followed halts in the trading of the company's stock and a Nasdaq inquiry.

NewLead has just taken delivery of the one-year-old Newlead Castellano, its third eco-type handysize addition since the beginning of the year.

The 35,542 dwt bulker is trading on the spot market and NewLead is projecting it will generate about \$1.7m in earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation annually.

It follows the acquisition of the 2012-built Newlead Albion and Newlead Venetico earlier this year. The company also owns two older panamaxs and has three smaller tankers under technical management.

"Today, NewLead's fleet is completely transformed and optimised," said chief executive Michael Zolotas.

"We are accelerating the execution of our strategy to rebuild our fleet while focusing on younger vessels," he said. The average fleet age of the five owned vessels was 8.5 years, reduced from 18.5 years at the start of 2014.

According to Mr Zolotas, the company would "continue to capture opportunities" to grow the fleet to ready itself to benefit from market opportunities.

NewLead's share price has sunk in recent times and closed last week at \$0.07. On Monday morning it risen to \$0.09 in early trading.

The company has engaged a market maker, as required, and is awaiting approval from independent securities regulator Finra in order to have its shares trade on the OTCQB market.

NewLead has alleged that a dispute with US hedge fund Ironridge Global has sent its stock price tumbling and the dispute is awaiting an arbitration date, according to a spokesman for the shipping company.

In a regulatory filing last week NewLead said that Ironridge has requested another 3.8m shares on top of the 18.3m already received or requested. As of July 31, it said, Ironridge had invested \$2.5m in the company and sold NewLead shares issued to it for aggregate proceeds of \$32.3m.

As well as its shipping operation, NewLead has mining interests in Kentucky, US.

---

Article from Lloyd's List

<http://www.lloydslist.com/lll/sector/dry-cargo/article449115.ece>

Published: Monday 22 September 2014

© 2015 Informa plc. All rights Reserved. Lloyd's is the registered trademark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of Lloyd's