

Heidmar pools sign up four new ships

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CONNECTICUT-based pool operator Heidmar has roped in four more tankers into its managed fleet – one very large crude carrier and three aframax.

According to Heidmar chief executive Timothy Brennan, with these inductions the number of tankers operated in pools across all size categories by Heidmar has inched up to 126.

Mercator Lines of Mumbai and Bernhard Schulte of Hamburg are the two newcomers in Heidmar's list of pool partners, while existing pool partner Hansa Shipping has debuted in a new tanker category.

Mercator has allocated the 2006-built VLCC *Kamakshi Prem* into the 16-month-old Seawolf Tankers pool, which received a fillip in July after General Maritime decided to commit its entire fleet of seven VLCCs to it.

Kamakshi Prem has become the ninth VLCC in the Seawolf pool, of which eight are currently trading. One of General Maritime's VLCCs is yet to join. The other ship in Seawolf at present is the VLCC *Desimi*, contributed by Greek shipping magnate and Heidmar's 49% owner George Economou.

Mercator is no stranger to Heidmar, as it used to be a pool member in the Dorado Tankers pool for handysize and medium-range product tankers between 2005 and 2010.

Bernhard Schulte has committed the 2005-built aframax *Sophie Schulte* to Heidmar's Sigma Tankers pool.

Hansa Shipping, already a member of Heidmar's Blue Fin pool for suezmaxes, has become a new member of the Sigma pool as well, by contributing the 2003-built aframax pair of *HS Carmen* and *HS Medea*.

Heidmar commercially operates the Seawolf VLCC pool, Star Tankers for panamax and long-range 1, Sigma Tankers for aframax and long-range 2, Dorado Tankers for handysize and medium-range product tankers, and Blue Fin Tankers for suezmaxes. Heidmar also has a 50% interest in Womar, a chemical pool company.