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Indians sign on as Dorado poolsters

Connecticut-based Dorado Tankers has added its second pool partner in less than a month with a commitment from Sanmar Shipping of India.

Sanmar has agreed to enter its 48,532-dwt Sanmar Sonata (built 1982) into the products-tanker pool, run by Heidenreich Marine (Heidmar), effective next month.

The commitment comes on the heels of a decision by Unicorn Shipping of South Africa to enter two newbuildings in the pool effective 2003 and 2004.

"That one helps us for the future, and Sanmar's participation helps us immediately," said Dorado managing director David Palmer. "We are working on a few more things and I can only say 'watch this space'."

Palmer says Dorado is happy to be adding pool partners after an initial period of chartering in tonnage to build the fleet. While tanker rates have fallen off in the last quarter, Palmer does not see a connection with Dorado's current momentum. "It is more the case that it takes time to get these things together and these are some of the people we've been working on since we started the pool," Palmer said. "They have to be comfortable with where they're going."

Palmer notes Sanmar's previous experience with pools, including the Torvald Klaveness Bulkhandling pool and Torm's medium-range products tanker pool.