

Sigma swells

Three big names have entered into the Sigma Tankers' pool while an existing member is introducing new tonnage, Heidmar says.



Mercator Lines, China Shipping Development Co (CSDC) and Conti Reederei are the newcomers, with ETA boosting its pool presence.

Heidmar says Mercator and CSDC will each enter one vessel to Sigma Tankers with two Conti newbuildings arriving following delivery in 2009.

ETA will enter a further two vessels to the pool.

Heidmar said: "Sigma Tankers recently entered the clean LR2 trade with the delivery of two newbuildings in July and September.

"Further expansion into this market will continue with three additional LR2 tankers being delivered to the pool over the next four months by China Shipping and by ETA."

The influx will boost Sigma Tankers' vessel count to 30 by early 2009, with pool members boasting an orderbook of 30 aframaxes.

Glenn Gronseth, managing director of Sigma Tankers, said "The addition of these new LR2 tankers will further strengthen Sigma's position as a major player in the world's aframax market and expand our trade in the clean petroleum market."

By [Andy Pierce](#) in London