

Nordic readies pool debut

Nordic Tankers has taken its first step towards launching a chemical tanker pool after teaming up with Singapore's Womar Holdings.



Tommy Thomsen.

The pair could have a pool for 10,000-dwt to 17,000-dwt chemical tankers up and running by the end of this year after penning a marketing agreement for vessels in that range today.

Tommy Thomsen, CEO of Nordic Tankers, told TradeWinds: "The pool could begin with 35 ships and we would look to grow that."

Nordic Tankers has around 15 ships which could join the pool, while Womar has 20 candidates on its books, Thomsen explains.

Other Nordic-managed vessels which fall into the category are fixed away on long-term contracts.

Thomsen adds, however, that a number of details need to be ironed out before any pool is set up.

For now the two companies will concentrate on jointly marketing their chemical tankers, drawing on Nordic's strength in the west and Womar's presence in the east.

In a statement to investors Thomsen said: "This letter of intent is in line with our strategy of prudent and profitable growth with a target of more than 150 vessels under management in 2013.

"Womar's strong position in Asia is the perfect match for Nordic Tankers as it supplements our strong position west of the Suez Canal."

Thomsen, who took the reigns at Nordic Tankers after it teamed up with Clipper late last year, says the listed-owner's original fleet of product tankers will remain in the Torm and Maersk pools.

Nordic Tankers presently manages around 70 chemical and product tankers. Womar, a joint-venture between Heidmar and W-O Shipping, boasts 40 ships, half of which fit into the 10,000-dwt to 17,000-dwt range.

By [Andy Pierce](#) in London