

Seven General Maritime-owned VLCCs to trade in Heidmar's supertanker pool

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Seawolf Tankers, the new VLCC pool launched by shipping company Heidmar, has got a boost with New York Stock Exchange-listed General Maritime Corp. planning to place all its seven supertankers in the pool for trading.

Under the agreement, Genmar Vision, Genmar Zeus, and Genmar Ulysses in a month's time will start trading in the pool, which was formed by Heidmar in May last year, General Maritime said in a statement late Tuesday.

Also, Genmar Hercules and Genmar Victory are expected to begin trading in the pool after completion of their current time charters, while Genmar Poseidon and Genmar Atlas will come into the pool through period charters with Heidmar, the company added.

"We are delighted to have General Maritime as a formative participant in Seawolf Tankers," Heidmar chief executive officer Timothy Brennan said in the statement.

A shipping pool is a collection of similar vessel types under different ownerships but placed under the control of a commercial entity. The entity trades the vessels as a single, cohesive fleet unit and collects or "pools" their earnings which are distributed to individual owners at a later date.

"Seawolf Tankers complements our flexible fleet deployment strategy by enhancing our ability to maximize earnings while maintaining a level of stability in our results," John Tavlarios, president of General Maritime, said in the statement.

The company also said that the two vessels on period charter to Heidmar will be chartered for 12-months at market related rates, subject to a floor of \$15,000/day and an equal profit share above \$30,000/d.

Genmar Maritime may withdraw any of its vessels from the pool after one year upon 90 days notice, with the delivery of ship after the completion of any charter applicable at that time.

The Genmar Hercules is currently on a 12-month time charter to Trafigura at a rate of \$35,500/d, with an earliest redelivery date of September 2011.

There is also an optional 12-month period available at the charterer's option at a rate of \$40,000/d. The optional period, if exercised, must be declared by Trafigura no later than 30-days from the redelivery date, the statement said.

It also added that the Genmar Victory was currently on a 24-month time charter to BP at a rate of \$40,500/d with the redelivery date slated for February 2012.

For this vessel too there is an optional 12-month period available at the charterer's option at a rate of \$40,000/d.

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