

Søfart



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A Diamond among Bulkers



Diamonds are forever.... Whether this will be the case for the above model is probably doubtful. It is nevertheless a very robust ship compared to the majority of bulk carriers and is now ready to sail home money to the diverse partners - Lauritzen Bulkers, Spar Shipping in Norway, the Welsh Graig Group, Danish Carl Bro, DNV and various shipyards in the Far East.

Diamond 53 is the name given to this completely new type of double hull bulk carrier by the innovators from Graig Group and Carl Bro's marine division. Newbuilding "Spar Lyra" is on the brink of making an exciting debut on the handymax market. A debut with Danish expertise at more or less both ends as "Spar Lyra" and the next vessel in the series "Spar Lynx" are chartered to J. Lauritzen's bulk division for a three-year period.

This is a new type of bulk carrier so it will be interesting to see how they play on the market, said Jens Ditlev Lauritzen, Director of Lauritzen Bulkcarriers. Both vessels are owned by Spar Shipping in Norway, with which Lauritzen has longstanding relations. The Norwegian owner has placed an order for 8 vessels of this type which was already a success for the backers from Graig and Carl Bro before its introduction to the market.

Other Danish operators are interested in the Diamond vessel and representatives of shipowners in Copenhagen have even visited Chengxi Shipyard in China to check the vessel thoroughly both with regard to operation and acquisition. Nothing specific has been settled yet but as far as Søfart has learned interest in this type of vessel is still high.

Confidence in the Diamond 53 concept has been so great that a number of shipowners have ordered 21 vessels from shipyards in China and Vietnam. Most of the vessels will be delivered from Chengxi Shipyard which has built the first two ships. The first 12 vessels from Chengxi will be followed by 4 from New Century Shipyard and 5 from the state-owned Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Corporation, Vinashin, which has two shipyards working on the matter.

We are quite satisfied with the market for these vessels said Project Manager Michael H. Schmidt from the marine division of Carl Bro a/s. Especially in view of the fact that 12 options have also been revealed.

Both Carl Bro and Graig - and the Diamond group consortium which consists of DNV and a couple of finance houses - are eager to see whether the Diamond 53 model will be joined by more family members. Both big brother - Diamond 80 - and a Diamond 32 are on the drawing board.