

## **News Release**

### **BIBBY LINE SETS SAIL FOR EXPANSION WITH NEW SHIP ORDER**

Bibby Line – the shipping division of the £1bn-turnover Liverpool-based Bibby Line Group – is increasing its fleet again with a new order for a deep-sea dry bulk carrier.

The new Supramax Bulk Carrier, capable of carrying loads of up to 57,000 deadweight tonnes (dwt), is being built by the Jinling shipyard in Nanjing, China.

Scheduled for delivery in March 2012, the vessel will be the firm's second recent addition to its dry-bulk fleet.

As a geared carrier, she comes fitted with cranes and grabs, allowing her to load and discharge at ports without shore-based equipment.

Bibby took delivery of a 57,000 dwt sister vessel – the Shropshire – last year.

The business says it is planning further acquisitions of newbuildings or second hand ships as it looks to significantly expand its capacity.

Jebb Kitchen, managing director of Bibby Line, said: "We made a lot of money selling our fleets of chemical and LPG tankers between 2005 and 2007 and are now ready to use our cash reserves to expand our fleet further".

"This new order marks the latest stage of our reinvestment programme and we are optimistic about the opportunities for growth in the international dry bulk market."

Bibby Line is the oldest privately owned shipowner in the world.

**ENDS** June 2010

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