



Courage Marine sails off with top spot in Marine Money rankings

- Takes 1st place in prestigious award that ranked the financial performance of 99 shipping groups worldwide in 2007
- Also finishes top in ROA, Debt to Capitalisation and Debt Coverage Ratio
- Award validates its tested, asset-light business model of deploying older, well-maintained ships while imposing stringent cost controls

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Courage Marine Group Limited, a dry bulk shipper focused on infrastructure and energy-related commodities, has once again demonstrated just how tightly and effectively it runs its ship by finishing first in Marine Money's industry-acclaimed annual rankings.

Triumphing over 98 other companies, Courage Marine has been named the world's best shipping company for 2007 by Marine Money International, a highly respected provider of maritime company analysis that tracks the financial performance of the world's most noteworthy shipping groups.

Courage Marine has surprised many by beating out far larger groups such as Cosco Holdings, STX Pan Ocean and AP Moller-Maersk. Runner-up D/S Norden A/S has a fleet of 216 vessels to Courage Marine's eight.

Size is clearly not everything, however, as Courage Marine has proved by coming out tops in the overall performance rankings, which assess candidates based on measures such as total return to shareholders, profit margin, return on assets (ROA) and return on equity (ROE). In the individual categories, the Group placed first in ROA as well, with a figure of 52.6%. For ROE, it clinched the ninth place, with a figure of 64.2%.

Courage Marine also won kudos in the financial strength rankings, nabbing second place. In the individual categories, the Group topped the rankings in terms of credit rating, interest coverage and debt to capitalisation.



This superb showing is a testament to how successfully the Group has managed its operations, securing contracts at the best dry bulk shipping rates available and maintaining excellent fleet utilisation rates of over 90%. In addition, its tight rein on costs and gearing levels has helped Courage Marine rake in enviable profits. For FY07, the Group's eight vessels brought in revenues of US\$90.4 million and net profits of US\$60.4 million. Without a doubt, Courage Marine's triumph in the credit rankings can be attributed to its low gearing, high profitability and ample liquidity.

Said Chairman Hsu Chih-Chien: "All in all, the results were extremely gratifying as they clearly validate our business model. Even though our fleet is made up of older ships, they are well-maintained and efficiently deployed. At today's prices, it is certainly feasible to extend the life of our vessels to maximise on the current boom in commodities, as long as the payback is swift and the debt burden is light.

"Currently, we are riding the boom by focusing on the spot market, with some COAs (contracts of affreightment) thrown into the mix as well for longer-term revenue. We have been securing excellent spot rates for coal and iron ore. Even our COA rates have been favourable too"

Mr Hsu added: "Courage Marine's ability to maintain top-notch profits over the past few years proves that we have one of the better business models in the industry and that our long-standing relationships across the region have stood us well. After all, this award is not the first time that Money Marine has recognised our achievements. It ranked us 10th in overall performance, third in financial strength and fifth in dividend yield for 2006, when the rankings covered only 86 companies.

"Money Market publisher George Weltman was openly taken aback when we clinched the top place this year, but he acknowledged that our win is certainly no fluke given our solid track record and that Wall Street clearly finds merit in our tested business model, especially now, when commodity markets are soaring and charterers need to move cargoes."

To make the most of the current boom, Courage Marine is looking to increase its fleet, with both new and secondhand vessels, depending on price and availability. The Group's healthy balance sheet, which boasts cash reserves of about US\$77 million, will facilitate these acquisitions.

Courage Marine recently posted sterling results for the first quarter ended 31 March 2008, with a 32% year-on-year (yoy) rise in net attributable profit to US\$12.6 million. Revenue



COURAGE MARINE GROUP LIMITED

Hong Kong office
Suite 906 Wing On Centre
111 Connaught Road, Central, Hong Kong

Taipei office
5/F Transworld Commercial Center
2 Nanking E. Road Sec-2, Taipei, Taiwan

grew by 29% yoy to US\$21.5 million. Tight cost controls helped push up the Group's net profit margin, to 58.3% from 57.1%.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

www.couragemarine.com

SGX mainboard listing: October 2005

Courage Marine owns and operates eight dry bulk carriers that transport coal for Asia's growing energy needs. Its fleet is deployed around Greater China, Japan, Russia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and elsewhere in Asia.

The vessels transport mainly dry bulk commodities such as coal, cement, cement clinker, iron ore, minerals and wood chips. This fleet of Handysize, Handymax and Panamax vessels allows greater flexibility in plying long and short voyages.

The Group's substantial presence in the region enables Courage Marine to capitalise on the continued economic growth in China and the Asia-Pacific region. The Group is well-positioned to take advantage of growing demand for dry bulk transportation services, especially those for coal. Prospects for industry growth are positive, as is the Group's outlook.

Spotting opportunities in the low of 2001, five directors started the company with a fleet of four secondhand vessels that had, by 2005, rapidly expanded to 10.

The company may be young, but the five directors bring 150 years of combined experience. Each excelling in his own field, they form a perfect partnership that personifies the passion for shipping.

With the IPO, the partners hope to grow Courage Marine through fleet expansion, injecting new blood, and building a strong corporate culture that reflects the vision, spirit and values of the founding members.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES

MR CARL YUEN

+852 3184 0755

COURAGE MARINE GROUP

courage@couragemarine.com

MS ROSALIND SOO

+65 9383 9791

OAKTREE ADVISERS

rosalind@oaktreadvisers.com

MS NORA CHENG

+65 9634 7450

OAKTREE ADVISERS

noracheng@oaktreadvisers.com

Other media releases on the company can be accessed at www.oaktreadvisers.com