

WFW ADVISES DNB ON US\$310M LOAN FACILITY TO STAR BULK CARRIERS CORP

5 NOVEMBER 2018 • PRESS



Watson Farley & Williams (“WFW”) advised Norway’s DNB Bank ASA (“DNB”), as facility agent and security agent for a syndicate of banks comprising itself, ABN AMRO Bank N.V., BNP Paribas, Danish Ship Finance and Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB, in relation to a US\$310m loan facility provided to Star Bulk Carriers Corp. (“Star Bulk”).

Secured on 26 vessels in Star Bulk’s fleet, the facility consists of two tranches:

- (a) a first tranche of US\$240m used to refinance Star Bulk’s debt under five existing facility agreements; and
- (b) a second tranche of US\$70m used to finance the prospective capital expense for the retrofitting of vessels in the Star Bulk fleet with scrubbers ahead of the entry into force of the 2020 IMO regulations.

Star Bulk is a global shipping company providing worldwide seaborne transportation of dry bulk cargoes. Star Bulk’s vessels transport major bulks, which include iron ore, coal and grain, and minor bulks, such as bauxite, fertilisers and steel products.

The new facility was a key part of Star Bulk’s successful refinancing of its existing facilities, which were subject to the restructuring agreement of September 2016 and included restrictions on the company on the acquisition of new vessels and the raising of new debt.

At the same time, the facility will enable the company to implement its announced strategy to retrofit its fleet vessels with scrubbers, which clean the vessels’ exhaust gases in accordance with the International Maritime Organisation’s 0.1% Emission Control Area requirement, as well as ensure compliance with the 0.5% global sulphur cap requirement coming into force in January 2020.

The WFW Athens team advising DNB was led by Office Head and Partner George Paleokrassas, supported by Associates Konstantinos Mexias, Eleni Antonakou and Ilias Tsigos, as well as Paralegal Katerina Dimitriou.

George commented: “It was a pleasure working with DNB on this important transaction which enables Star Bulk to not only consolidate their existing debt and complete the refinancing of all debt amounts previously deferred under its restructuring agreement of September 2016, but also ensures their fleet will comply with the highest environmental standards through their retrofitting of scrubbers”.

WATSON FARLEY & WILLIAMS

In May of this year, George jointly led with Corporate Partner Daniel Saunders a cross-border WFW Athens and London team that advised Star Bulk on its acquisition of 16 vessels from Augustea and York Capital.

RELATED CONTACTS



GEORGE PALEOKRASSAS

SENIOR PARTNER • NEW YORK

T: +30 210 455 7301

gpaleokrassas@wfw.com

MEDIA ENQUIRIES



WILL SALOMONE

T: +44 20 3036 9847

media@wfw.com

Disclaimer

Watson Farley & Williams is a sector specialist international law firm with a focus on the energy, infrastructure and transport sectors. With offices in Athens, Bangkok, Dubai, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hanoi, Hong Kong, London, Madrid, Milan, Munich, New York, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo our 700+ lawyers work as integrated teams to provide practical, commercially focussed advice to our clients around the world.

All references to 'Watson Farley & Williams', 'WFW' and 'the firm' in this document mean Watson Farley & Williams LLP and/or its affiliated entities. Any reference to a 'partner' means a member of Watson Farley & Williams LLP, or a member, partner, employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualification in WFW Affiliated Entities. A list of members of Watson Farley & Williams LLP and their professional qualifications is open to inspection on request.

Watson Farley & Williams LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC312252. It is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and its members are solicitors or registered foreign lawyers.

The information provided in this publication (the "Information") is for general and illustrative purposes only and it is not intended to provide advice whether that advice is financial, legal, accounting, tax or any other type of advice, and should not be relied upon in that regard. While every reasonable effort is made to ensure that the Information provided is accurate at the time of publication, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, validity or currency of the Information and WFW assume no responsibility to you or any third party for the consequences of any errors or omissions. To the maximum extent permitted by law, WFW shall not be liable for indirect or consequential loss or damage, including without limitation any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any use of this publication or the Information.

This publication constitutes attorney advertising.