

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use. For high-quality copies or electronic reprints for distribution to colleagues or customers, please call UK support at +44 (0)20 3377 3996 / APAC support at +65 6508 2430

Printed By

## D'Amico hopeful of product tanker uplift

*Italian product tanker owner sees signs of rising consumption of transport fuels, for example in the US, as more of the economy opens up*

11 Mar 2021 | **NEWS**

by **Nidaa Bakhsh** | @LloydsListNidaa | nidaa.bakhsh@informa.com

The company, which posted a profit in 2020 versus a loss the year earlier, is betting on a recovery from the near-term market softness that almost forced it to idle ships



D'AMICO INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING THINKS KEY GLOBAL ECONOMIES WILL BE OPENING UP FROM LOCKDOWN LATER THIS YEAR.

ITALY'S d'Amico International Shipping is counting on a recovery in demand for transportation fuels such as diesel in the second half of the year as more economies open up.

The company's chief executive Paolo d'Amico sees the market bottoming out, with the most positive element being, as with any other industry, the take up of vaccines.

There are signs that consumption is starting to rise, such as in the US, where life is getting back to normal and Americans are driving more, he said.

While the market is still challenging, the company is taking a more cautious approach, especially in the first half of the year. However, longer-term fundamentals still look favourable, both on the demand and the supply side.

"I am confident DIS is today well-positioned to confront a near-term soft patch in the market and we can look at a bright future ahead," Mr d'Amico said.

At the weakest point in the market, it had considered idling vessels, but the situation was not as dire as in the crude tanker market, he said.

After a very strong first half of 2020, its operations team decided to move ships from the spot market and increase period coverage at still profitable levels, which saw the company post a full-year net profit of \$16.6m versus a loss of \$27.5m in 2019.

It sold five vessels in the past year, and will likely continue that trend this year, although with asset values at low levels, d'Amico will hold onto its older vessels for a bit longer.

Vessel purchases will also be made on an “opportunistic basis,” Mr d'Amico said.

Last month, the company exercised a purchase option on a 2005-built medium-range tanker, which had been sold and leased back by d'Amico in 2017.

The company continues to deleverage its balance sheet.