

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 eyes improved US investor exposure with OCTQX application

Italian product tanker owner says move to OTC Markets' top tier would improve reach to US investors

03 Oct 2023 | **NEWS**

by **Tomer Raanan** | tomer.raanan@lloydslistintelligence.com

Trading in Milan and in the US OTC Pink Market, d'Amico is seeking to upgrade to OTC Markets' top tier OCTQX, which requires higher financial and governance standards, and offers greater transparency to investors



TRADING OTC OFFERS INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES ACCESS TO US CAPITAL WITH FEWER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS OF KEY EXCHANGES SUCH AS THE NYSE OR NASDAQ. *Source: d'Amico International Shipping*

PRODUCT tanker owner d'Amico International Shipping is seeking to upgrade its trading status in the US in a bid to reach more US investors.

The Milan-listed company, which is also trades in the US over the counter market's bottom-tiered Pink Market, has applied with OTC Market Group for membership in the upper tier OCTQX.

“By allowing DIS' shares to cross-trade on OTCQX Market, we believe we will be able to better reach the US investment community, build our shareholder base and increase the visibility and the overall trading

liquidity of our stock, always with the objective of generating value for our company and our shareholders,” chief executive Paulo d’Amico said in a statement.

Trading OTC offers international companies access to US capital with fewer regulatory and listing requirements of important exchanges such as the NYSE or Nasdaq, but also less liquidity and investor reach.

Individual US states have regulations known as blue sky laws that govern securities trading, which are meant to protect investors from securities fraud.

D’Amico said that unlike companies in the Pink Market, those in the OCTQX are compliant with blue sky laws in 37 states.

This enables brokers to distribute research and engage in reverse solicitation in those states, it said.

“The OTCQX International Market segment for international companies, is an established public market with high financial and corporate governance standards, recognised by the US Securities Exchange Commission, which provides to US investors a more transparent, liquid, and efficient cross-trading alternative to the OTC Pink market,” the company said.

Admission is expected before the year’s end, subject to OCT Markets’ approval.

D’Amico’s move comes on the back of a strong product tanker market that has seen it net nearly \$100m in the first half of the year.

The company said during an earnings call at the end of July that it will allocate its cash towards improved dividends and deleveraging. It has also focused on share repurchases amid high asset prices and what it deemed a “record” discount of its share price to net asset value, although the former has risen by more than 20% since its last earnings call.

D’Amico International Shipping is a subsidiary of privately owned d’Amico Societa di Navigazione.