

BOXSHIPS

D'Amico in pursuit of handysize

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Italian owner d'Amico Societa di Navigazione is negotiating the purchase of another handysize containership.

Chief executive Cesare d'Amico says the secondhand vessel is needed to strengthen its co-operation with Maersk Line in the North African trades.

The new ship could be used in the intra-Moroccan trades.

These are served by Maersk using the 951-teu *Cielo di Casablanca* (ex-*Dartmoor*, built 1998), which d'Amico purchased last year for a reported \$8.4m.

D'Amico also runs a service linking Italy, Spain and Tunisia with Morocco using the 700-teu *Tetuan* (built 2003), which is chartered from Ernst Komrowski. It operates as part of a two-ship service partnership with Boluda Corporacion Maritima of Spain, which charters another small vessel, the 868-teu *Annabella* (built 2006).

Rome-based d'Amico is better known these days as a tanker and bulker owner.

But for historical reasons including its former ownership of Italia di Navigazione, the company will continue in the container-shipment market.

This includes the possibility of taking small stakes in certain companies, according to Cesare d'Amico.

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