

PRESS RELEASE

J. Lauritzen A/S Annual Report 2004

Best ever result for J. Lauritzen

Revenues totalled USD 1,123 million up from USD 898 million in 2003 (corresponding to DKK 6,803 million in 2004 up from DKK 5,966 million in 2003).

Profit before tax were USD 240.8 million (DKK 1,425 million) up from USD 46.4 million (DKK 273 million) in 2003.

Net profit was USD 200.6 million (DKK 1,184 million) up from USD 76.2 million (DKK 444 million) in 2003. The result is the best ever.

Return on invested capital was 62.3% (16.4% in 2003) and return on equity was 59% compared to 39% in 2003.

The result before tax for 2005 is expected to be very satisfactory, however slightly below earnings in 2004.

Lauritzen Bulkers again had a significant influence on JL's earnings before tax (USD 215 million), but also the reefer activities (USD 15 million), managed by LauritzenCool, and the gastank activities managed by Lauritzen Kosan (USD 15 million) had a positive impact on the results.

Lauritzen Tankers had its first year of operations in 2004. Activities were focused on building up the business, including the delivery of a 45,000 dwt. newbuilding in November. Furthermore, several long-term charter parties have been accomplished.

JL continued its expansion in 2004 investing USD 143 million (against USD 77 million in 2003) in fleet expansion, including:

- Six bulk carriers.
- 13 pressurized gas carriers together with Exmar of which 11 were included in the joint purchase of Far East Shipping's gas carrier business. Furthermore, six gas carriers with ethylene capacity have been ordered.
- One 45,000 dwt. product tanker.

The favourable market conditions supported divestments, including sales as a part of the on-going renewal of the gas carrier fleet.

Divestments accounted for USD 67 million (USD 14 million in 2003), including:

- Three Handysize bulk carriers all bought earlier in 2004.
- Two wholly owned S/R gas carriers (one as a sale and lease back) and two vessels in the Lauritzen Kosan/Exmar joint venture purchased earlier in 2004.

After year-end the owned fleet has been further changed. Two Handysize bulk carriers have been acquired and three have been sold. Furthermore, two wholly owned and three partly owned gas carriers, of which two were acquired in 2004, have been sold. Finally three reefer vessels have been sold in a sale and lease back arrangement.

Further fleet expansion is expected in 2005 and in years to come:

- One second hand Panamax bulk carrier to be delivered in April 2005 and a Handysize newbuilding delivered to the Lauritzen Bulkers / Island View Shipping joint venture in February 2005. Additional Handysize newbuildings will be delivered in 2006 and 2007.
- One second hand reefer vessel to be delivered in April 2005 followed by another in April 2006
- A newbuilding programme for six (of which two were contracted early 2005) 8,000 m³ gas carriers with ethylene capacity, for delivery in 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- Two MR (medium range) product tankers have been taken on five and seven years charters respectively with delivery in 2007 and 2008.

As of 1 January 2004, LauritzenCool AB entered a tonnage sharing agreement with NYK Reefers and at the same time, NYK Reefers bought 50% of LauritzenCool Logistics. This collaboration has developed well since then and as from 1 January 2005, the two companies agreed a memorandum of understanding to create a 50:50 joint venture. This will see NYK acquiring 50% of LauritzenCool AB and LauritzenCool AB taking over NYK Reefers' commercial activities. Ownership of vessels and time charter commitments continue with Lauritzen Reefers and NYK Reefers respectively.

During 2004, JL had an average staff of 861 and controlled an average fleet of 155 vessels. Together with partners and associates the controlled fleet was about 240 vessels. The remaining part of the fleet consists of chartered vessels and pool vessels. 41 ships are on charter for periods exceeding 12 months. JL has purchase options on 11 bulk carriers and on four reefer vessels on long-term charter.

To access the entire Annual Report for 2004 please visit our website: www.j-l.com

***For further information, please contact Torben Janholt, president & CEO,
or Birgit Aagaard-Svendsen, exec. vice president, CFO,
on +45 3396 8400.***

./. Key and main figures for 2004

J. Lauritzen A/S
2004
Summary

	USD mio.	
	2004	2003
Profit and loss account		
Turnover	1.137,1	909,3
Result before depreciation	240,3	71,7
Gain (loss) from sale of fixed assets	22,6	4,1
Depreciation	(31,5)	(25,3)
Operating income	231,5	50,6
Result before tax in associated companies	11,6	3,3
Result of financial items	(2,3)	(7,4)
Result before tax	240,8	46,4
Tax on ordinary result	(40,1)	30,5
Result for the year	200,7	76,9
Minority shareholders' share of result	(0,1)	(0,7)
The J. Lauritzen Group's share of result	200,6	76,2

	USD mio.	
	2004	2003
Result before tax allocated to business areas		
Reefer activities	15,1	6,5
Landbased activities	1,2	4,4
Lauritzen Kosan	15,1	(8,2)
Lauritzen Bulkers	214,7	41,2
Lauritzen Tankers	0,0	-
Not allocated	(5,4)	2,4
	240,8	46,4

Key figures	2004	2003
Profit margin	20,4%	5,6%
Capacity ratio	145%	109%
Solvency ratio	68%	45%
Return on equity	59%	39%
Liquidity ratio	229	136
Return on invested capital	62,3%	16,4%

	USD mio.	
	2004	2003
Balance sheet		
Fixed assets	392,4	313,7
Current assets	86,0	123,2
Bank deposits and securities	164,3	95,8
Total assets	642,7	532,7
Equity	437,7	238,3
Minority shareholders' share of equity	6,4	7,1
Provisions	0,5	0,0
Long-term debt	89,1	152,4
Short-term debt	109,0	134,9
Total equity and liabilities	642,7	532,7



J. Lauritzen A/s
Shipowners

