

# Pacific Basin Shipping Limited

## Press Release

### **Pacific Basin acquires options to purchase two newbuilding roll on roll off cargo vessels**

*Hong Kong, July 10, 2008* – **Pacific Basin Shipping Limited** (“Pacific Basin” or “the Company”; SEHK: 2343), one of the world’s leading dry bulk shipping companies, announced today that it has signed binding purchase option contracts with the Grimaldi Group in respect of two roll on roll off cargo vessels to be built at Hyundai Mipo, a major Korean shipyard, for delivery in the second and fourth quarters of 2010. Grimaldi are one of the largest operators of this type of vessel in the world. If the purchase options are exercised, as the Company intends, the total consideration will be approximately US\$174 million.

These vessels are of similar size and type to the four newbuildings which the company already has on order from the A.P. Moller-Maersk owned Odense Steel Shipyard in Denmark. The addition of two further vessels to the Pacific Basin’s roll on roll off fleet will enable the Company to develop its position in an attractive shipping sector with good demand prospects, an ageing world fleet (42% of vessels are aged 25 years or over), a small orderbook (comprising less than 20% of the existing fleet) and a requirement for premium service levels. These are all features that originally attracted Pacific Basin to the handysize bulker business.

Ships of this type are predominantly in service in Asia Minor (Turkey) and Europe but Pacific Basin sees excellent, longer term prospects for roll on roll off vessels in the Far East and South East Asia, where the long coast lines of China, Vietnam and short cross sea routes between other fast-growing nations of the region are potentially well suited to roll on roll off services. The recent increase in oil prices promises to significantly improve the attractiveness of modern, fuel-efficient tonnage at the expense of older ships.

Pacific Basin is concurrently continuing to grow its position as one of the world's largest operators of modern handysize drybulk tonnage. The Company has a fleet of 101 bulkers on the water of which 34 are owned or on finance lease, 46 are on long term charter (including 11 with purchase options) and 21 are on short term charter. In addition the Company has newbuilding contracts for 12 bulk carriers, of which 3 deliver in 2008, 6 deliver in 2009 and 3 deliver in 2011.

The Company will publish its 2008 interim results on August 4, 2008. In the meantime, for further information on the Company, please visit [www.pacificbasin.com](http://www.pacificbasin.com).

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## **About Pacific Basin**

Pacific Basin Shipping Limited is one of the world's leading dry bulk shipping companies.  
([www.pacificbasin.com](http://www.pacificbasin.com))

The Company specializes in providing high service shipping services for a broad range of dry bulk commodities which include forestry products, cement, minerals, iron ore, grains, fertilisers and scrap steel from resource-rich regions such as Australia, New Zealand, West Coast North America and South East Asia to high commodity consumption countries such as Japan, China, and South Korea.

Pacific Basin has a global presence with its headquarters in Hong Kong and offices in Shanghai, Beijing, Nanjing, Dalian, Tokyo, Seoul, Singapore, Mumbai, Karachi, Dubai, Fujairah, London, Bad Essen, Houston, Vancouver, Auckland, Melbourne and Santiago.

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### **For further information, please contact:**

#### **The Company**

Klaus Nyborg

Tel : +852 2233 7003

Mobile : +852 6013 0075

E-mail : [knyborg@pacbasin.com](mailto:knyborg@pacbasin.com)

Emily Lau

Tel : +852 2233 7054

Mobile : +852 9843 6557

E-mail : [elau@pacbasin.com](mailto:elau@pacbasin.com)

#### **Hill & Knowlton Asia Ltd**

Rebecca Ng

Tel: +852 2894 6216

Mobile: +852 6772 9109

E-mail: [rebecca.ng@hillandknowlton.com.hk](mailto:rebecca.ng@hillandknowlton.com.hk)

Christy Lee

Tel: +852 2894 6254

Mobile: +852 6181 8496

E-mail: [christy.lee@hillandknowlton.com.hk](mailto:christy.lee@hillandknowlton.com.hk)