

Tankers

Lila Global confirms VLCC pooling deal as part of 'strategic return' to tankers

Partners say additional ship will benefit all pool members



Lila Global boss Anil Sharma. (Photo: Capital Link)

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London-based pool Tankers International and Dubai owner Lila Global have confirmed a collaboration involving a newly acquired VLCC.

The companies said the 300,000-dwt Lila Kochi (built 2008), bought from Mitsui OSK Lines as the M Star in June for \$48m, has joined the UK commercial operation.



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The move “reinforces Tankers International’s position as the premier provider of VLCC pooling globally,” the operator said.

Lila Global has been actively expanding its presence in the tanker market in 2025, reflecting the company’s long-term, countercyclical strategy in shipping.

It has bought two chemical carriers and two MRs as well this year.

TradeWinds reported the pool move last week.

Lila Global head of sale and purchase Faidon Panagiotopoulos said: “Our strategic return to the tanker sector aligns perfectly with Tankers International’s commitment to operating VLCCs in a safe and efficient manner, irrespective of market conditions.

“We are confident this new partnership will benefit all pool members and assist them to maximise shareholder returns by utilising quality assets, regardless of age.”

Tankers International now has a total of 29 vessels, with eight pool partners.

It said: “As the market continues to evolve, the company’s pooling model remains critical in navigating complex trade routes and delivering competitive returns.”

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The company believes members can benefit from improved cash flow, access to longer and more profitable trades, and greater operational efficiency.

Tankers International chief executive Charlie Grey said: “As the VLCC market becomes increasingly volatile and fragmented, the value of pooling is becoming increasingly powerful. Our VLCC pool is designed to adapt to these dynamics and deliver consistently strong performance.”

“The addition of the Lila Kochi and a partner like Lila Global supports our strategy of combining scale with quality tonnage and owners who are looking to maximise their exposure to the spot market, particularly at a time when fundamentals point to a strong freight market going forward.”

The shipowner took delivery of the tanker in early July and repositioned it to Singapore to assess its deployment options.

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Lila Global places newly acquired VLCC in Tankers International pool

TradeWinds understands that the vessel was being placed in Tankers International's VLCC 15+ pool, a sub-pool formed specifically to operate older VLCCs.

The chemical tankers operate in a Womar pool, while the MR2s are in the Norden

pool.

Unlike with its large fleet of bulkers, which are operated by in-house technical and chartering teams, Lila Global prefers to outsource the technical and commercial management of its tankers.

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