++ Shipbuilding News ++

Chinese in a crisis

(http://www.asiasis.com/view_new.php?bbs_id=news&doc_num=17545)

China's number one shipbuilding province cannot helpdodging clouds upon the shipbuilding industries. According to a recent report from the Jiangsu Economic and Information Technology Commission of China, Jiangsu's newbuilding delivery, order and orderbook all saw decreases during the first half of 2012. During the same period, 230 vessels of a cumulative 9.89m dwt were delivered, down by 8.6% year-on-year, of them export ship accounting for 87.4%. In the first six months, 88 vessels of a combined 2.35m, plummeted by 67.6% year-on-year, were contracted. Export ship took 72.7%. Orderbook, at the end of June, stood at 944 vessels of a combined 48.6m dwt, representing 298.8% decrease year-on-year, of them 84.4% were for export.

Japanese orders sink 30%

(http://www.asiasis.com/view_new.php?bbs_id=news&doc_num=17547)

In July of 2012, Japanese shipbuilding industries' overall export ship contracted is estimated to be a total of 13 vessels of a cumulative 0.48m gt, which brings ship export being under 0.5m gt three months in a row. According to a statistical report by the Japan Ship Exporter's Association (JSEA) on August 22, in July, 12 bulkers (seven handysizes, four handymaxes and one panamax) and one LNG carrier were contracted, bringing a total of ship export contracted in the first seven months to 80 vessels of a combined 3.96m gt, declined by 30% year-on-year. Meanwhile, the amount of those got clearance in the last month is estimated 28 vessels of a cumulative 1.33m gt, up by 31% year-on-year. During the first seven months of this year, delivery of export ship increased by 7% y-o-y to 240 vessels of a combined 11.01m gt.

Gibdock targets offshore

(http://www.tradewindsnews.com/offshore/282126/gibdock-targets-offshore)

Gibdock is looking to win more work from the offshore rig market after completing its first project in the sector in fifteen years. The Gibraltar shipyard has just finished work on the semi-submersible accommodation platform 22,604-gt Etesco Millennium (built 1976). The rig's eight-month stay at the yard represented an important milestone for the ship repair facility, as it continues its campaign to broaden the range of its offshore business. Gibdock is targeting rig repairs as a significant new area of business and believes it can capitalise on its strategic location in the straits of Gibraltar to win more orders in this sector. “The Etesco Millennium is important as it gave us a chance to showcase our capabilities,” says Richard Beards, Gibdock commercial director. “We have now demonstrated our versatile and professional approach to handling big offshore assets. We are always willing to cooperate with the customer and class society, to find cost effective solutions for offshore clients.”

++ Shipping News ++

Big three bouncing back

(http://www.tradewindsnews.com/liner/282089/big-three-bouncing-back)

Japan’s NYK, MOL and K Line now look likely to post profits from their containerships this year as rates rise. The big three have also been boosted by lower fuel bills and slow-steaming. Forecasts at the start of the financial year had indicated full-year losses to 31 March, 2013, for a second 12-month period. But NYK’s boxships are now on course for a pre-tax profit of JPY 1.5bn ($18.92m), compared with a JPY 44.7bn loss in 2010/2011, the Nikkei daily reported, without revealing sources. MOL could make JPY 3bn, compared to a loss of JPY 29.9bn the year before, while K Line may equal that figure, against its previous deficit of JPY 41.7bn.

Oil Gains On U.S. Stockpile Drop, Stimulus Speculation

(http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-08-22/oil-trades-near-three-month-high-on-u-s-stockpiles-fed-minutes.html)

Oil rose for a third day in New York after stockpiles declined more than analysts projected and speculation mounted that central banks in the U.S. and China will boost economic stimulus. Futures advanced as much as 1.1 percent after closing at the highest level in more than three months yesterday. Crude inventories shrank 5.4 million barrels last week, the Energy Department said. They were forecast to drop by 250,000 barrels. Minutes from a U.S. Federal Reserve meeting showed many policy makers backed more monetary easing, while China’s central bank governor, Zhou Xiaochuan, said adjustments to interest rates and banks’ reserve requirements are still possible. “We had pretty supportive news for commodity markets from the Fed,” said Ric Spooner, a chief market analyst at CMC Markets in Sydney. “The wording was explicit and it seems likely that there is going to be easing. Inventories are heading the right way and the decline was larger than expected.”

++ Finance News ++

Currency costs blight DOF

(http://www.tradewindsnews.com/offshore/282124/currency-costs-blight-dof)

DOF ASA has slumped to a loss in the second quarter on the back of fluctuations in Brazil’s currency against the US dollar. The Norwegian company booked a loss of NOK292m ($50m) for the quarter versus a loss of NOK48m in the second quarter of 2011. Unrealised losses on foreign exchange for the second quarter were NOK 611m, which was mainly attributed to the weaker Norwegian Krone and Brazilian real. The currency losses masked a promising quarter for the company which saw a 35% jump in revenues to NOK2.1bn on the back of a larger fleet. DOF said the average rate of employment for the subsea fleet during the quarter was 95% (91%), with 94% (92%) for the supply fleet. Commenting on the state of the market DOF said that in general, the spot market in the North Sea has been weak the entire quarter, and especially in May and June.

CVR Rises After Icahn Pulls Bid For Rest Of Shares

(http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-08-21/icahn-withdraws-offer-for-cvr-energy-says-deal-isn-t-feasible-.html)

CVR Energy Inc. (CVI), the oil refiner that’s 82 percent owned by Carl Icahn, rose after the billionaire investor withdrew his $29-a-share offer to buy the rest of the company. Icahn, the chairman of CVR’s board, yesterday withdrew his Aug. 6 offer to pay at least $29 and no more than $30 a share for the Sugar Land, Texas-based operator of refineries in Kansas and Oklahoma. Market conditions changed, including a widening margin between the cost of oil and the price at which refiners can sell fuel, and the deal is no longer “feasible,” Icahn wrote in a letter to the board. An increase in so-called crack spreads, a measure of refining profitability, may have made Icahn’s offer appear low to investors who held onto shares as he increased his stake, said Neil Earnest, practice leader for mergers and acquisitions at Dallas-based consulting company Muse, Stancil & Co. The shares have traded above $29 every day since Icahn’s Aug. 6 bid was announced.