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Vale holds naming ceremonies of two new VLOCs

Vale holds today in Busan, South Korea, the naming ceremonies of two new very large ore carriers (VLOCs), Vale Rio de Janeiro and Vale Italia, built by shipyard Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co. The occasion was attended by His Excellency Sergio Mercuri, the Italian Ambassador to Korea. These two new vessels, after Vale Brasil, are the latest out of seven ore carriers ordered from the South Korean shipyard. Vale Rio de Janeiro will be delivered today and Vale Italia is scheduled to be delivered in late October.

Mrs Giovanna Du Lac Capet, wife of Mr Emilio Riva, Owner and Chairman of Ilva-Taranto & Riva Group, is the Lady Sponsor for Vale Italia and Mrs Sonia Zagury, director of Finance at Vale, the Lady Sponsor for Vale Rio de Janeiro. The Vale Italia will mostly be dedicated to carry iron ore between Brazil and Taranto in Italy.

The development of this project represented a huge technological challenge in terms of innovation. The vessels allow high speed loading and unloading, are suitable for most modern ports in the world and have an efficient drainage system, capable of pumping out standing water with six bilges in each hold. They also reduce carbon emissions by 35% per ton of ore transported - a "green" project that received in May the "Nor-Shipping Clean Ship Award", an international industry acknowledgment for this achievement.

A highly efficient logistics infrastructure is a key element for competitiveness in the iron ore market. In order to maximize the efficiency of its operations and meet growing global demand, Vale is developing various initiatives to obtain economies of scale. The commissioned vessels will be part of the efficient logistics solution between the company's maritime terminals in Brazil and European and Asian customers. The ore carriers have a high standard of safety and will contribute to reducing the cost of long haul maritime transportation of iron ore to steelmakers.

"Our goal is to have a dedicated fleet for part of our exports, a fleet which is more efficient, environmentally friendly, with higher standards of operational safety and contribute largely to reduce the freight volatility in the market.," says the executive director of Marketing, Sales and Strategy José Carlos Martins.

More information



Mônica Ferreira

monica.ferreira@vale.com

Rio de Janeiro

+55 (21) 3845-3636

Fatima Cristina

fatima.cristina@vale.com

Rio de Janeiro

+55 (21) 3485-3621