

Irish register adds Norwegian chemical tanker

The ambitious Irish Ship Register has added a Norwegian vessel to its ranks.

The Frea, a 16,000-dwt chemical carrier controlled by Oslo's Fleischer & Co and owned by an Irish-registered company, is the latest addition to the expanding tonnage tax system.

Jan Berg, head of the vessel's Irish manager, Maritime Management of Dublin, said: "We are obviously delighted with this development. The Irish Ship Register has a reputation for stringent safety and surveying requirements, is renowned for the quality of its fleet, and the country has a favourable tax regime for shipping companies.

"Certainly the owners of the Frea were aware of all this when they transferred to the Irish flag".

The ship is currently on time charter to the oil giant ExxonMobil.

Last year, Ireland signed up seven bulkers owned by Italy's B Navi to its tonnage tax system, but they did not re-flag.

The country has about 60 ships on its books and has had enquiries from around the world from other owners.