

News Releases

BP Orders Fourth "Alaska Class" Tanker

September 21, 2001 -- ANCHORAGE, AK – BP has placed an order for a fourth, state-of-the-art, double-hull oil tanker for use in delivering Alaska North Slope crude oil to refineries on the U.S. West Coast. BP placed orders for three tankers in September 2000.

Design work is under way, and construction of the 1.3-million-barrel-capacity tankers will begin in early 2002. National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. (NASSCO) of San Diego is scheduled to deliver the first ship in late 2003 with subsequent ships being delivered in 2004, 2005 and 2006. BP will complete conversion of its Alaska fleet to double hulls in 2006.

The four-ship order, with options for two additional tankers, has been matched to BP's Alaskan production plans for the next decade.

In addition to double hulls, BP's new "Alaska Class" tankers will be built with redundant propulsion and steering systems which include twin diesel-electric power systems in segregated engine rooms, twin propellers and twin rudders. Use of diesel-electric propulsion systems will also reduce air emissions at sea and in port while reducing maintenance down time. To eliminate accidental oil leaks, the propeller shafts will be cooled and lubricated with seawater instead of lubricating oil. Cargo piping will be installed in the cargo tanks, instead of on deck, to reduce the risk of small spills. The ships will be fitted with state-of-the-art machinery and cargo control systems and an integrated navigation system.

The "Alaska Class" design will allow maximum flexibility for oil deliveries to West Coast ports, including BP refineries in Los Angeles and Cherry Point, WA.

The new build project will keep an estimated 1,000 NASSCO workers employed over the life of the contract. Design development and construction will be supervised by BP Shipping Limited.

The ships will be operated by Alaska Tanker Co. of Portland, OR, which was formed in 1999. The Alaska Tanker Company operates BP chartered tankers used in the Alaska North Slope trade.

BP operates 12 Alaska oil fields with gross production of approximately 800,000

barrels of oil per day. BP is also the leading gasoline retailer in the five western states of Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona and Nevada. The company has more than 1,700 ARCO retail outlets.

Design Summary

Design life	35 to 50 years
Capacity	1.3 million barrels
Deadweight	185,000 MT
Length	287 m
Breadth	50 m
Maximum Draft	18.75 m
Tanks	18 cargo tanks (3 x6)
Steering	2 high-efficiency rudders with separated steering gear rooms
Propulsion	Twin-propeller, integrated diesel-electric system consisting of four 6.3-megawatt generators and two 10-megawatt propulsion motors in independent engine rooms.
Speed	15.3 knots

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