



**Essar berths first MiniCape in India;  
creates new segment of 1, 05,000 DWT**

- **First of its kind MiniCape bulk carrier MV Kamlesh, built at STX Dalian Shipyard, berths at Essar Hazira Port**
- **She is the first vessel in a series of six that Essar will induct into its fleet over the next five months. This is part of the USD 1 billion capex to acquire 12 vessels and two jackup rigs**
- **Total tonnage to go up to 2.6 million tonnes from, 1.71 million tonnes currently, making Essar Shipping among the top 2 private sector shipping companies in India, with the largest fleet of Capesizes**

**Hazira, February 17, 2012:** Gujarat saw berthing of the first MiniCape vessel in India “MV Kamlesh” by Essar Shipping (ESL). On its maiden voyage to Hazira, the vessel is carrying 100000 tonnes of coal from Australia for Essar Steel.

Essar has created this new segment of 1, 05,000 DWT (dead weight tonnage) and MV Kamlesh is the first vessel in a series of six that Essar will acquire in the next 5 months. This is line with the company’s strategy to strengthen its bulk carrier fleet with modern vessels as the world trade is continue to grow with the increased economic activities. These vessels would comfortably carry flexible quantities of coal / iron ore parcels to meet the growing cargo requirements of Power, Steel and other core sector industries in India.

On the occasion of berthing of the vessel, **Mr AR Ramakrishnan MD, Essar Shipping Limited** said, “We are proud to berth India’s first MiniCape. Such vessels are also ideally suited to Indian Ports as they are uniquely designed with shallow draft and have the capacity to carry more cargo, thus benefiting our clients.”

These double-bottom mini cape vessels are built conforming to the standards of the American Bureau of Shipping. It will incorporate futuristic design and the latest technology. The ships will be environment-friendly and comply with the latest and the most stringent IMO regulations and capable of meeting global trading requirements and will have excellent deployability.

These six state-of-the-art vessels built at STX Shipyard are specially designed shallow draft vessels that will provide substantially higher cargo carrying capacity.

Essar Shipping has an enviable track record of accident free/pollution free transportation. ESL, through its operating track record of over 30 years has significant expertise in sea transportation and supply chain management services to steel industry, cement industry, refining industry fertilizer industry and electricity generating companies.

### **About Essar Shipping**

Essar Shipping Limited has a diversified fleet of 25 vessels, including VLCCs, Capesizes, Supramaxes, mini bulk carriers and tugs. The company has placed orders for 12 new ships, which are expected to join the fleet over the next 24 months. A sizeable part of the capacity is deployed on long-term contracts and COAs, insulating the company from the volatility of spot markets.

The Oilfields Services business provides contract drilling services to oil & gas companies across the globe. This business owns one semi-submersible rig and 12 land rigs. The company has ordered two new jack-up rigs, which will be joining the fleet over the next 18 months.

The Logistics business provides end-to-end logistics services – from ships to ports, lighterage services to plants, intra-plant logistics and dispatching finished products to the final customer. This business owns transshipment assets to provide lighterage support services, and onshore & offshore logistics services. It manages a fleet of over 5,000 trucks for inland transportation of steel and petroleum products.

### **About Essar Group**

The Essar Group is a multinational conglomerate and a leading player in the sectors of Steel, Energy, Infrastructure and Services. With operations in more than 25 countries across five continents, the Group employs 75,000 people, and has revenues of USD 17 billion.

### **For Media Queries**

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