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NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD

Form 6-K

February 17, 2005

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of February 2005

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LIMITED
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Canon's Court
22 Victoria Street
Hamilton HM 12
Bermuda
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FORM 6-K REPORT

Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a copy of the press release issued by Nordic American Tanker Shipping Limited ("NAT" or the "Company") on February 16, 2005, announcing the commencement of a follow-on offering of its common shares.

Exhibit 1

Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd. (NAT) - (NYSE: NAT) Announces Public Offering of Common Shares

Hamilton, Bermuda, February 16, 2005 --

Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd. (the "Company") today announced that it is commencing a public offering of 3,500,000 common shares pursuant to the Company's effective shelf registration statement. Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. and UBS Investment Bank will act as joint bookrunning managers and DnB NOR Markets, Inc. will act as a co-manager. The Company will grant the underwriters an option to purchase an additional 525,000 common shares to cover any over-allotments, exercisable within 30 days.

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The net proceeds of this offering will be used to repay any amounts borrowed under the Company's senior secured credit facility to finance the acquisition of two additional Suezmax tankers that the Company has agreed to purchase, to pay the remaining balance of the aggregate purchase price of the two additional Suezmax tankers and for general corporate purposes, including any future vessel acquisitions.

This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any state in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any state.

The offering will be made only by means of a prospectus and related prospectus supplement. A prospectus and the related prospectus supplement related to the offering will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. When available, copies of the prospectus relating to the offering may be obtained from the offices of Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. at 383 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10179, Attention: Prospectus Department and UBS Investment Bank at 299 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10171, Attention: Syndicate Desk.

The Company is an international tanker company that owns four modern double-hull Suezmax tankers. The Company expects to take delivery of the two additional Suezmax tankers it has agreed to purchase in late March 2005.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Matters discussed in this press release may constitute forward-looking statements. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides safe harbor protections for forward-looking statements in order to encourage companies to provide prospective information about their business. Forward-looking statements include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions and other statements, which are other than statements of historical facts.

The Company desires to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and is including this cautionary statement in connection with this safe harbor legislation. The words "believe," "anticipate," "intend," "estimate," "forecast," "project," "plan," "potential," "will," "may," "should," "expect," "pending" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements in this press release are based upon various assumptions, many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions, including without limitation, our management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in our records and other data available from third parties. Although we believe that these assumptions were reasonable when made, because these assumptions are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies which are difficult or impossible to predict and are beyond our control, we cannot assure you that we will achieve or accomplish these expectations, beliefs or projections. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Important factors that, in our view, could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include the strength of world economies and currencies, general market conditions, including fluctuations in charter rates and vessel values, changes in demand in the tanker market, as a result of changes in OPEC's petroleum production levels and world wide oil consumption and storage, changes in our operating expenses, including bunker prices, drydocking and insurance costs, the market for our vessels, availability of financing and refinancing, changes in governmental rules and

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regulations or actions taken by regulatory authorities, potential liability from pending or future litigation, general domestic and international political conditions, potential disruption of shipping routes due to accidents or political events, vessels breakdowns and instances of off-hires and other important factors described from time to time in the reports filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the prospectus and related prospectus supplement, our Annual Report on Form 20-F, and our reports on Form 6-K.

Contacts:

Scandic American Shipping Ltd
Manager for
Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd.
P.O Box 56
3201 Sandefjord
Norway
Tel: + 47 33 42 73 00 E-mail: info@scandicamerican.com

Web-site: www.nat.bm
Rolf Amundsen
Chief Financial Officer
Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd.
Tel: +1 800 601 9079 or + 47 908 26 906
Herbjorn Hansson
Chairman & CEO
Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd.
Tel: +1 866 805 9504 or + 47 901 46 291

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LIMITED
(registrant)

Dated: February 17, 2005

By: /s/ Herbjorn Hansson

Herbjorn Hansson
President and
Chief Executive Officer

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