



The Max Kudo has been bought by Straits Orient Lines. Photo: V Tonic/MarineTraffic

Straits Orient Lines splashes out \$15m on two boxships

Singapore feedership operator boosts owned fleet to 12 vessels

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By [Jonathan Boonzaier](#)

Straits Orient Lines of Singapore has joined the ranks of liner players expanding their fleets by buying two containerships, one of which is coming from Vroon.

The feeder operator revealed to TradeWinds on Friday that the purchases involved a combined investment of \$15m.

The company took delivery of Vroon's 1,702-teu Max Kudo (built 2008) in Singapore on Thursday. It has been renamed SOL Promise, with technical management assigned to Providence Ship Management.

Vroon had acquired the ship as the Barents Strait from Rehder Carsten in 2016.

The second vessel, whose identity was not disclosed due to confidentiality clauses in the sales contract, will be delivered towards the end of this month and renamed SOL Stride. It was said to have a 1,155-teu capacity.

Both Straits Orient and Providence are part of Transworld Group Singapore.

Remaining competitive

Transworld chairman Mahesh Sivaswamy said these two latest additions would allow the company to remain competitive and relevant and it would continue to look for more vessel purchase opportunities in the future.



Singapore's OEL rebrands as Straits Orient Lines

Straits Orient was launched in 1999 and was rebranded from Orient Express Lines in July.

The company operates a sizeable route network connecting Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka with ports in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam. Some routes are operated in conjunction with other players.

Once the company has taken delivery of both new ships, it will have at its disposal 12 directly owned and operated feeder containerships, and others that are chartered in or provided by route partners.

The company bought two 1,155-teu containerships last year.

This article has been updated to include further details on fleet strength and the capacity of the second vessel purchased[\(Copyright\)](#)