

Edgar Filing: FRONTLINE LTD / - Form 6-K

FRONTLINE LTD /
Form 6-K
June 10, 2005

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

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

For the month of June 2005

Frontline Ltd.

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Par-la-Ville Place, 14 Par-la-Ville Road, Hamilton, HM 08, 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

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in
connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-_____

Item 1. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FORM 6-K REPORT

Attached as Exhibit 1 is a copy of the press release of Frontline Ltd. (the
"Company") dated May 31, 2005.

Exhibit 1

Frontline Ltd. Interim Report January - March 2005

HIGHLIGHTS

- o Frontline reports a quarterly result of \$279.7 million and earnings per
share of \$3.74 for the first quarter of 2005.
- o Frontline announces a cash dividend of \$3.10 per share.

FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

Edgar Filing: FRONTLINE LTD / - Form 6-K

The Board of Frontline Ltd. is pleased to announce net income of \$279.7 million for the first quarter of 2005, equivalent to earnings per share of \$3.74. Operating income for the quarter was \$309.3 million compared to \$471.7 million in the fourth quarter of 2004 - this decrease reflects the lower market rates experienced in the first quarter of 2005 compared to the exceptionally strong fourth quarter in 2004. The average daily time charter equivalents ("TCEs") earned in the spot and period market by the Company's VLCCs, Suezmax tankers and Suezmax OBO carriers were \$77,500, \$55,200 and \$35,800 respectively compared to \$111,200, \$85,000 and \$31,100 respectively in the fourth quarter of 2004. In the first quarter of 2005, the Company reported a gain from sale of assets of \$28.5 million as a result of the sale of one Suezmax.

Interest income was \$8.7 million in the quarter, of which, \$5.8 million relates to restricted deposits reported in Independent Tankers Corporation ("ITC"). The Company recorded interest expense of \$61.1 million in the quarter, of which \$16.0 million relates to ITC. During the first quarter, Ship Finance International Limited ("Ship Finance") refinanced its \$1,058.0 million facility and the new facility is for \$1,087.0 million. In connection with this refinancing, \$11.7 million in deferred charges relating to the old facility were written off.

The total for other financial items for the quarter was a net gain of \$20.4 million compared to a net gain of \$17.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2004. Movements in interest rates in the quarter have resulted in valuation gains of \$12.6 million on interest rate swaps in the first quarter compared to \$5.9 million in the fourth quarter of 2004. As at March 31, 2005, the Company had interest rate swaps with a total notional principal of \$628.8 million of which \$578.8 million relates to Ship Finance. The mark to market valuation of freight future agreements in the first quarter has resulted in a loss of \$5.2 million compared to a gain of \$0.7 million in the fourth quarter. Other financial items also includes a gain of \$12.7 million on the sale of marketable securities.

The Company recorded a foreign exchange gain of \$6.9 million in the first quarter compared to a loss of \$9.8 million on the fourth quarter of 2004. This has arisen due to Yen debt in subsidiaries and certain Yen currency contracts and reflects the weakening of the Yen from 103.1 at December 31, 2004 to 107.55 at March 31, 2005.

The Company sold in the first quarter its remaining 10.7 percent holding in Golden Ocean Group Limited that was held after the spin off in 2004 resulting in a net gain of \$12.8 million, of which, \$11.8 million has been classified as discontinued operations.

As at March 31, 2005, the Company had total cash and cash equivalents of \$783.5 million which includes \$589.6 million of restricted cash. Restricted cash includes \$309.6 million relating to deposits in ITC and \$271.0 million in Frontline Shipping Limited and Frontline Shipping II Limited. As of May 23, 2005, the Company has cash breakeven rates on a TCE basis for VLCCs and Suezmaxes of \$27,565 and \$20,850 respectively.

The results for the quarter ended March 31, 2004 have been restated to reflect discontinued operations related to the dry bulk operations sold during 2004.

CORPORATE AND OTHER MATTERS

On May 31, 2005 the Board declared a dividend of \$3.10 per share. The record date for the dividend is June 10, 2005, ex dividend date is June 8, 2005 and the dividend will be paid on or about June 24, 2005.

In January 2005, the Company reduced its shareholding in Ship Finance by approximately 25 percentage points through a share distribution. In March 2005,

Edgar Filing: FRONTLINE LTD / - Form 6-K

the Company distributed a further 10 percentage points of its investment in Ship Finance. As of today, Frontline's shareholding in Ship Finance is approximately 16 percent.

At March 31, 2005, 74,825,169 ordinary shares were outstanding and the weighted average number of shares outstanding for the quarter then ended was 74,825,169.

The Company announced in a 13D filing submitted to the U.S. SEC on April 28, 2005, that it had reduced its ownership in General Maritime ("Genmar"). As of this date, Frontline held a total of 1,693,000 shares in Genmar equal to 4.5 percent of Genmar's outstanding share capital.

In January 2005, Ship Finance exercised its option to acquire the VLCC Oscilla from an unrelated third party. The vessel was delivered in April 2005 and renamed Front Scilla. Between January and March 2005, the Company took delivery of three additional double hull VLCCs on the exercise of purchase options from German KGs. These four vessels are now owned by Ship Finance and are subject to time charters, management and profit sharing arrangements between Ship Finance and Frontline on similar terms as the rest of the Ship Finance tanker fleet.

In March 2005, the Company sold the Suezmax tanker Front Fighter to an unrelated third party. The time charter and management arrangements between the Company and Ship Finance were concurrently cancelled.

The Company announces the sale of the dry bulk carrier, Cos Hero. The vessel is anticipated to be delivered to its new owners in August, 2005.

In March and May, 2005 the Company has chartered out three VLCCs. The vessels are chartered out until 2010, with an option for the charterer to extend the charters. The contracts will provide the Company with a guaranteed minimum hire of \$34,500 per day and in addition provide for a 50:50 profit sharing of earnings in excess of \$36,500 per day.

In May 2005, Ship Finance announced the sale of the three Suezmax tankers, Front Lillo, Front Emperor and Front Spirit, for a total consideration of \$92.0 million. The vessels will be delivered to the buyers within the next few weeks. At the same time, Ship Finance also announced the acquisition of three similar vessels, Front Traveller, Front Transporter, and Front Target from the Company for an aggregate amount of \$92.0 million. The time charter and management arrangements between Ship Finance and Frontline will be cancelled for the vessels being sold and replaced with new agreements on similar terms for the vessels acquired.

THE MARKET

The strong tanker market that we experienced in the fourth quarter of 2004 became weaker in the first quarter of 2005. The market experienced a strong correction in January and the rates did not bottom out before we reached the WS 70 level. January became a weak month, but in February and March the market rebounded and stayed at approximately WS 150 for the remainder of the quarter. The average WS rate Arabian Gulf to East was approximately 107 compared to 257 in the fourth quarter which equates to a TCE of \$55,000 per day compared to \$160,000 per day. In the Suezmax market from West Africa to the east coast of the U.S. the average WS rate for the first quarter of 2005 was 164 or approximately a TCE of \$42,000 compared to WS 297 and a TCE of \$91,000 in the fourth quarter. The weakening of the market along with the cutback in OPEC production came despite a continued growth in the crude oil demand particularly in China. The cutbacks had a psychological effect on the market which resulted in a larger correction in the freight market than can be explained purely on the basis of lower demand for transportation services.

Edgar Filing: FRONTLINE LTD / - Form 6-K

According to the IEA May report, the average OPEC oil production, including Iraq, in the first quarter of 2005 was approximately 28.79 million barrels per day (b/d), a decrease from the fourth quarter of 2004 of about 2.5 percent when they produced about 29.52 million b/d. OPEC had expected an overproduction and a gradual softening of prices during the quarter, but in spite of the record high crude oil prices it appears that demand remained firm and OPEC had to announce an increase in their production in March.

IEA estimates that world crude oil demand averaged 84.25 million b/d in the first quarter, a decrease of 0.2 percent from the fourth quarter of 2004. IEA further predicts that the average demand for 2005 will be 84.30 million b/d. There are still oil analysts that think that IEA are conservative in their estimates and that demand will be considerably higher.

The world VLCC fleet totalled 451 vessels at the end of the first quarter 2005, an increase of seven vessels or 1.6 percent over the quarter. No VLCC's was scrapped in the period and seven were delivered. The total order book is now at 83 vessels down from 86 after the fourth quarter 2004. This represents 18.4 percent of the current VLCC fleet. A total of four VLCC's were ordered during the quarter

The world Suezmax fleet totalled 313 vessels at the end of the quarter, up from 310 vessels after the fourth quarter 2004. No Suezmax was scrapped during the quarter and three were delivered. The total orderbook for Suezmaxes is now at 80, down from 83 after the fourth quarter. This represents 25.6 percent of the current Suezmax fleet. No Suezmaxes were ordered in the quarter.

The tanker market looks relatively healthy for the remainder of the year. The freight futures market seems to be reflecting this view, and at the moment it is possible to sell freight futures for the rest of the year 2005 at a level that equates to approximately \$45,000 per day on VLCCs, and \$40,000 per day for 2006. For Suezmaxes we can now hedge the rest of the year 2005 at \$33,000 per day and \$31,000 per day for 2006.

STRATEGY

The Company will continue to seek to optimise long term return on equity. Such a return will be achieved through having limited capital tied up in asset ownership, high payout ratios and a balanced freight portfolio including good forward coverage.

It is expected that the tanker fleet in the coming years will grow at a higher pace than it has done the last five years. In order to meet the risk of such a changing environment, Frontline has worked in order to increase the charter coverage for the fleet. Special focus has been put on charter coverage for single hull tonnage.

Frontline has further reduced its position in Genmar since its last SEC filing. In line with what was written in the fourth quarter report, Frontline sees the investment in Genmar as opportunistic. The negative response towards consolidation from Genmar's management has reduced our interest and forced Frontline to look for alternatives. It is of vital importance for the future of the tanker market that the responsible tanker companies, including their shareholders, are looking for ways to reverse the current trend of a more fragmented industry. This should over time spur the outbreak of the mega mergers which we recently have seen in other parts of the shipping market. Economies of scale, flexibility to customers, reduced financing cost, better interest from the capital market and a much improved fleet utilisation and efficiency are all factors which strongly direct the industry to further consolidation.

The Board today sees limited opportunities to grow the Company through purchase of modern tonnage in the S&P market. The relationship between risk and reward

Edgar Filing: FRONTLINE LTD / - Form 6-K

has changed dramatically during the last two years. It should be anticipated that the most interesting opportunities in the coming period will come from corporate opportunities and charter deals.

The Board had targeted a divestment of the remaining Ship Finance shares in the first half of 2005. The recent weakness in the market and the relative low valuation of Ship Finance compared to other yield focused shipping shares might change the strategy for this divestment somewhat.

OUTLOOK

The market has in line with the development in 2004 shown seasonal weakness in the second quarter. The world wide consumption of crude oil in the latter part of the year is close to four million barrels higher than in May. The increase in demand will lead to increased production levels, and is expected to push freight rates up significantly. The increase in fleet size in second half of 2005 is likely to lead to a somewhat lower freight market than in 2004. However, this will to a large extent depend on the development in the global economy. The delivery situation of particularly VLCCs in 2006 is lower than 2005 and might reverse the trend. The long term demand effects of high crude oil prices and the increased inefficiencies of the single hull fleet are further factors which will decide the direction of this market.

Frontline is well positioned through partly fixed employment. The cash break even rates for the open tonnage are reduced to \$24,335 and \$12,544 per day for VLCCs and Suezmaxes respectively. The forward market for VLCCs and Suezmaxes indicate that the Company will generate substantial amounts of cash in the coming quarters. The free cash position as per end May 2005 is just below \$300 million. In addition to positive cash flow from operations, the development in free cash in the coming months will be positively influenced by the sale of the three Suezmaxes and the Cos Hero.

The Board is pleased with the results achieved so far this year, and remains optimistic about the outlook for the Company. The Company is likely generate strong positive net income numbers for the remaining three quarters of 2005, and the shareholders should expect continuous high pay out ratios.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release contains forward looking statements. These statements are based upon various assumptions, many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions, including Frontline management's examination of historical operating trends. Although Frontline believes that these assumptions were reasonable when made, because assumptions are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies which are difficult or impossible to predict and are beyond its control, Frontline cannot give assurance that it will achieve or accomplish these expectations, beliefs or intentions.

Important factors that, in the Company's view, could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in this press release include the strength of world economies and currencies, general market conditions including fluctuations in charter hire 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 crude oil consumption and storage, changes in the Company's operating expenses including bunker prices, dry-docking and insurance costs, changes in governmental rules and 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, and other important factors described from time to time in the reports filed by the Company with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Edgar Filing: FRONTLINE LTD / - Form 6-K

May 31, 2005
 The Board of Directors
 Frontline Ltd.
 Hamilton, Bermuda

Questions should be directed to:

Contact: Oscar Spieler: Chief Executive Officer, Frontline Management AS
 +47 23 11 40 79

Tom Jebsen, Chief Financial Officer, Frontline Management AS
 +47 23 11 40 21

FRONTLINE GROUP FIRST QUARTER REPORT (UNAUDITED)

INCOME STATEMENT	2005	2004
(in thousands of \$)	Jan-Mar	Jan-Mar (restated)
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Total operating revenues	460,624	444,488
Gain from sale of assets	28,528	24,000
Voyage expenses	84,464	81,666
Ship operating expenses	40,743	30,166
Charter hire expenses	1,118	11,750
Administrative expenses	5,155	7,250
Depreciation	48,405	44,540
Total operating expenses	179,885	175,382
Operating income	309,267	269,342
Interest income	8,690	7,960
Interest expense	(61,082)	(53,635)
Share of results from associated companies	1,930	2,860
Other financial items	20,401	(12,639)
Foreign currency exchange gain (loss)	6,998	(3,396)
Income before discontinued operations, taxes and minority interest	286,204	210,502
Minority interest	(18,399)	-
Taxes	-	-
Discontinued operations	11,864	3,920
Net income	279,669	214,432
Earnings per Share (\$)		
EPS from continuing operations	\$3.58	\$2.88
EPS	\$3.74	\$2.92
Income on time charter basis (\$ per day per ship)*		
VLCC	77,500	74,900
Suezmax	55,200	59,100
Suezmax OBO	35,800	26,100

* Basis = Calendar days minus off-hire. Figures after deduction of broker commission

2005 2004

Edgar Filing: FRONTLINE LTD / - Form 6-K

BALANCE SHEET (in thousands of \$)	Mar 31	Mar 31
ASSETS		
Short term		
Cash and cash equivalents	193,979	285,321
Restricted cash	589,578	571,853
Other current assets	357,321	229,071
Long term		
Newbuildings and vessel purchase options	24,231	8,371
Vessels and equipment, net	2,397,147	2,316,651
Vessels under capital lease, net	707,346	753,581
Investment in finance leases	107,727	120,951
Investment in associated companies	22,414	12,881
Deferred charges and other long-term assets	53,894	42,821
Total assets	4,453,637	4,341,531
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Short term		
Short term interest bearing debt	167,903	138,761
Current portion of obligations under capital leases	22,906	20,441
Other current liabilities	147,437	107,431
Long term		
Long term interest bearing debt	2,112,439	2,115,341
Obligations under capital leases	725,720	748,711
Other long term liabilities	24,770	65,641
Minority interest	545,381	
Stockholders' equity	707,081	1,145,191
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	4,453,637	4,341,531
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS (in thousands of \$)		
	2005	2004
	Jan-Mar	Jan-Mar
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income (loss)	279,669	214,431
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation and amortisation	60,762	45,181
Unrealised foreign currency exchange (gain) loss	(4,827)	8,401
Gain or loss on sale of assets (including marketable securities)	(53,074)	(24,181)
Results from associated companies	(1,930)	(2,861)
Adjustment of financial derivatives to market value	(10,615)	12,841
Other, net	17,862	3,201
Change in operating assets and liabilities	49,787	(30,611)
Net cash provided by operating activities	337,634	250,341
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Maturity (placement) of restricted cash	3,029	322,411
Purchase of short-term investment	-	(9,981)
Additions to newbuildings, vessels and equipment	(218,915)	
Proceeds from sales of vessels	67,750	11,181
Investments in associated companies, net	2,984	(32,141)
Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired	-	
Receipts from investments in finance leases and loans receivable	1,085	

Edgar Filing: FRONTLINE LTD / - Form 6-K

Purchases and sales of other assets, net	55,192	
	(88,875)	291,54
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from long-term debt, net of fees paid	1,102,855	1,464,11
Repayments of long-term debt	(968,559)	1,506,943
Repayment of capital leases	(5,024)	(4,796)
Dividends paid	(289,754)	(331,989)
Issue of shares, net	-	1,32
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(160,482)	(378,288)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	88,277	163,59
Cash and cash equivalents at start of period	105,702	121,72
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	193,979	285,32

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.

Frontline Ltd.

(Registrant)

Date June 8, 2005

By /s/ Kate Blankenship

Kate Blankenship
Company Secretary and Chief Accounting Officer

02089.0009 #578233