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## **DIANA SHIPPING INC. TAKES DELIVERY OF PANAMAX BULK CARRIER, EXPANDING FLEET TO 14 VESSELS**

ATHENS, GREECE, August 11, 2006 - Diana Shipping Inc. (NYSE: DSX), a global shipping transportation company specializing in dry bulk cargoes, today announced that it has taken delivery of the Yasmine Venture, a 73,546 dwt Panamax dry bulk carrier, built in Jiangnan Shipyard (Group), Co. Ltd., Shanghai in 2006. The vessel, which will be renamed Naias, was purchased for US\$39.6 million as previously announced and is chartered to Bocimar Belgium N.V. for a period of about 11-13 months, at the charterer's option, at a rate of \$21,000 net of commissions expected to commence August 12, 2006.

With the delivery of the Naias, Diana Shipping has increased its fleet to fourteen vessels (thirteen Panamax dry bulk carriers and one Capesize dry bulk carrier). In addition the combined deadweight of the fleet has increased to approximately 1,138,232 tons and the weighted average age has decreased to 3.9 years.

### **About the Company**

Diana Shipping Inc. is a global provider of shipping transportation services. The Company specializes in transporting dry bulk cargoes, including such commodities as iron ore, coal, grain and other materials along worldwide shipping routes. Diana Shipping Inc. priced its initial public offering of common stock on March 17, 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," "except," "anticipate," "intends," "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.

In addition to these important factors other 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 for dry bulk shipping capacity, 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 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, vessel breakdowns and instances of off-hires and other factors. Please see our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for a more complete discussion of these and other risks and uncertainties.

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