

# Frontline confirms deal to end deadlock over Euronav, buys 24 tankers for \$2.35B

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Frontline (NYSE:[FRO](#)) [+4.1%](#) pre-market Monday after confirming it has [agreed to buy](#) a fleet of 24 very large crude carriers from Euronav (NYSE:[EURN](#)) for \$2.35B, part of a deal that ends an 18-month stalemate between the two shipping groups after Frontline ([FRO](#)) abandoned merger discussions.

Also as part of the agreement, Frontline ([FRO](#)) and Famatown Finance - both controlled by Norwegian shipping magnate John Fredriksen - agreed to sell their entire holding in Euronav ([EURN](#)) to Belgian maritime group Compagnie Maritime Belge.

Frontline ([FRO](#)) said its total 26.1% stake in Euronav ([EURN](#)) will be sold at \$18.43/share, giving CMB ~49% of Euronav's ([EURN](#)) shares and 53% of the votes; after completion of the share purchase, which is expected in Q4, CMB will launch a mandatory public takeover bid for the remaining Euronav shares.

Frontline ([FRO](#)) said the deal will increase its total fleet size to 89 vessels from 65, and should be highly accretive to earnings and free cash flow per share, boosting its dividend capacity.

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