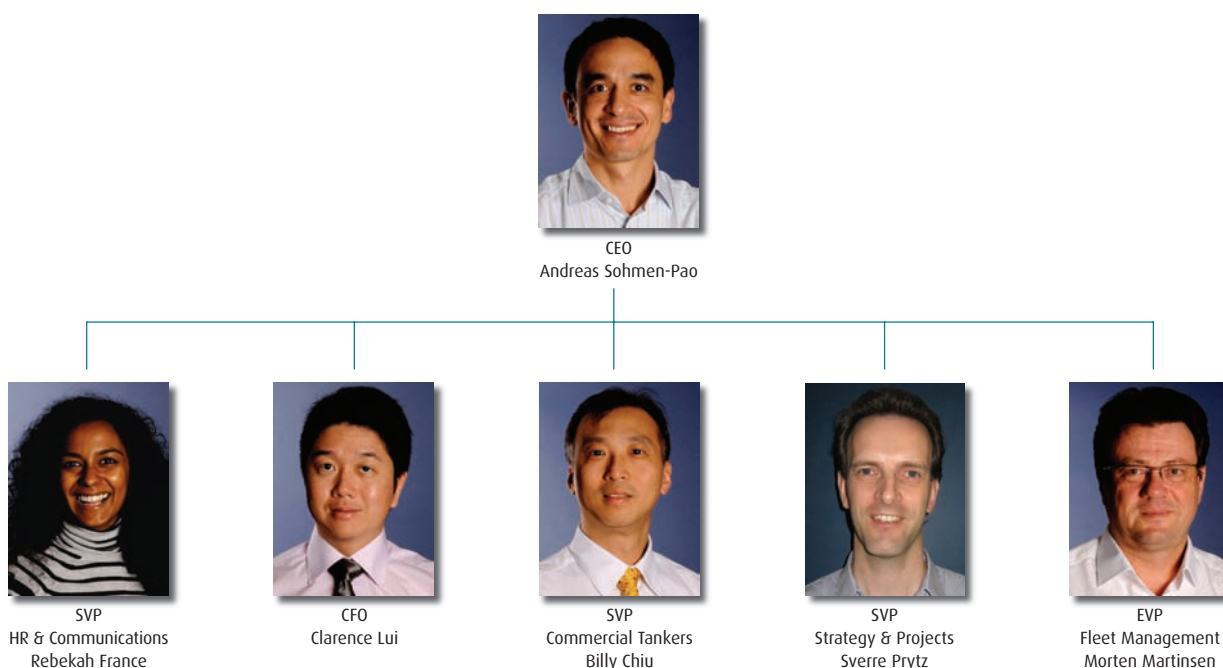


Taking stock

BW Group Limited, through its subsidiary World Nordic SE, has privatised BW Gas and restructured the management team.



The first half of 2009 has seen the BW Group's ownership in BW Gas increase from around 60 per cent to 99.9 per cent after a series of transactions.

In the first quarter of this year, BW Gas purchased four LNG carriers from BW Group for USD 720 million in BW Gas shares. A rights offering was initiated simultaneously to allow minority shareholders to maintain their proportionate interest. These transactions brought BW Group ownership to 90 per cent which further increased to 95 per cent after the second largest shareholder decided to sell.

BW Group subsidiary World Nordic then made a voluntary offer to all remaining shareholders in BW Gas. The process is almost complete, and with the offer accepted by all but one shareholder, the group now owns 99.9 per cent of BW Gas. At the AGM in May, the board approved the

decision to delist BW Gas from the Oslo Børs and BW Gas is now a private entity.

Andreas Sohlen-Pao, who has been Vice Chairman of BW Gas, takes over as CEO from Jan Håkon Pettersen on 1 July. Commenting on the decision, Sohlen-Pao said: "With the BW Group having invested an additional USD 900 million in BW Gas in the past quarter, and with the company at a critical strategic juncture, it was decided that I should become more directly involved. BW Gas has a strong asset base, a unique market position and a talented team – we need to find ways to deploy these strengths to generate better results."

The privatisation of BW Gas has opened up the possibility to further integrate the shipping divisions of the BW Group, an effort that has been underway since the acquisition of Bergesen by World-Wide in 2003. The ship management

function has already been integrated with the formation of BW Fleet Management in January 2009, headed up by Morten Steen Martinsen. In addition, Sohlen-Pao will be joined on the new global team by Clarence Lui, heading up Finance, and Rebekah France, heading up HR & Communications. Sverre Prytz, a new addition to BW, will lead the business on Strategy & Projects. Billy Chiu continues as head of Commercial on the tanker side, and a new Commercial head is soon to be appointed for the gas business.

"We can now develop a strong global team to take advantage of our strengths across the group. A more integrated management approach will ensure we leverage ideas, competence and best practices across the group, enabling us to compete more effectively," Sohlen-Pao noted. ●