The global financial crisis had changed several of the conditions and expectations for the future development of shipbuilding. A combination of factors brought about reduced shipbuilding requirements and by the end of 2008 / beginning of 2009, the placement of new orders came to an almost complete halt. In addition, several of the ships on order will have their delivery dates postponed.

The redundancies in the Nordjylland application are all the more serious to the region as it is anticipated that, even after the end of the crisis, the sector will not revive, with most of the new orders going to the far East, where costs are lower.

The Nordjylland region with its almost 600,000 inhabitants is the smallest region in Denmark, and also has the lowest population density. In terms of employment levels and income, it is lagging behind the rest of Denmark. The region is particularly dependent upon the industrial sector, and has been hard hit by the current crisis.