

## Saudi Global Ports – new star on the Saudi maritime horizon

Saudi Global Ports Co (SGPC), the new star on Saudi Arabia's maritime landscape, is a joint-venture company, formed between the public investment fund (PIF) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Singapore's PSA international (PSA). It will develop, operate and manage the second container terminal at the King Abdul Aziz port in Dammam, a key gateway in the Arabian Gulf. The SGP terminal will be equipped with the latest equipment and technology to serve the fast growing economy of the kingdom and the regional economies of Arabian peninsula, and transform Dammam into a preferred port of call. Being the biggest port in Saudi Arabia, Dammam is ideally located close to the kingdom's economic heart and capital city Riyadh, and linked by an existing railway network and highways to the rest of the country. More than 14 weekly services from over 20 shipping lines connect Dammam port with the rest of the world. SGPC provides a state-of-the-art container handling facility to its customers, with two containers berths equipped with six super post-panamax cranes to cater to the world's largest container vessels. The quay length is 700 metres in the first phase, and will increase to 1.2 km after expansion in the next phase.

## Emirates Steel signs AED 1-bn marine services agreement with Abu Dhabi Ports

Emirates Steel, the only integrated steel plant in the UAE and a subsidiary of the General Holding Corporation (SENAAT), has signed a strategic agreement with Abu Dhabi Marine Services (SAFEEN), a subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Ports, which has been valued at AED 1-billion. The agreement was signed by the CEO of Emirates Steel, Saeed Ghumran Al Remeithi, and Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports, in the presence of Captain Adil Banihammad, acting CEO – Marine Services, Abu Dhabi Marine Services – SAFEEN, and a number of senior officials and engineers from both parties. The agreement, which will be implemented in January 2021 and will extend over the following ten years, is the result of Emirates Steel's commitment to both providing high quality products, and optimising its supply chain in accordance with international standards. Such aims fall in line with Emirates Steel's efforts to support Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030. SAFEEN will provide short marine shipping services for three shipments of iron ore per month. Additionally, SAFEEN will be responsible for the purchase, rental, delivery, operation and maintenance of cargo ships, trailers and unloading equipment for Emirates Steel.

## Hutchison Ports Dammam – Saudi's most modern export-import gateway

Arguably Saudi Arabia's most modern and heavily automated export-import gateway, Hutchison Ports Dammam (HPD, formerly known as International Ports Services) is a multi-purpose deepwater facility situated at King Abdulaziz Port, Dammam, in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. The port is a joint venture between Hong Kong's Hutchison Ports (the world's leading port investor, developer and operator with a network of port operations in 51 ports spanning 26 countries throughout Asia) and MACNA (The Maritime Company for Navigation). MACNA is one of Saudi Arabia's largest maritime companies, set up in 1995 for the purpose of developing shipping activities including sea, air, and land transportation all over the world. It owns a fleet of several ships working in the field of marine transportation for both passengers and cargo. "Ours is a multi-purpose deepwater port with facilities for handling container, ro-ro, breakbulk, and refrigerated cargo," says Jay New, HPD's CEO and General Manager. "We have been constantly breaking records, and continually setting the bar higher for productivity standards. In addition, we provide export hubbing within Hutchison Port Holdings' global network."

## Indonesia eyes US\$60 billion investment in Singapore

Indonesia wants to re-position its Batam island as an alternative shipping and manufacturing hub to Singapore with a potential to draw US\$60 billion in new investment. Batam and nearby islands – located at less than 30km south of Singapore – have attracted about US\$20 billion dollars of investment since the government began promoting them as industrial area in the 1970s. The region, declared a free-trade zone in 2007, is home to thousands of local and foreign firms producing goods from computers to oil rigs. Now authorities want to expand benefits to businesses by reclaiming about 8,000 hectares of idle or confiscated land to offer to exporters or producers of import substitutes. "We aim to develop enclaves of special economic zones in Batam" with dedicated clusters for tourism and logistics among others, Edy Putra Irawady, the acting head of Batam Indonesia Free Trade Zone Authority, said. "Based on a rough calculation, the potential investments including those in the pipeline are worth around US\$60 billion," he said. The Batam free-trade zone consists of eight islands measuring 71,500 hectares. It's grown in importance as an investment destination for foreign companies, especially Singaporean firms, given its location in one of the busiest shipping channels, cheap labour and tax breaks.

## Abu Dhabi Ports considers investments in Montenegro's Bar port

UAE-based ports and industrial zones developer Abu Dhabi Ports has expressed interest in investing in Montenegro's Bar port, the Montenegrin government said. A delegation of Abu Dhabi Ports has visited Montenegro to continue the negotiations on a potential partnership for the development of the harbour, as the company has been looking at Bar port for more than a year, the government said in a statement earlier this week. "We intend to position Bar port on the market in such a way as to be competitive with the ports in the region, and in time to become the main regional port, given its good geographical position and existing development capacities," the commercial and the strategic department director of Abu Dhabi Ports, Ross Tompson, said in the statement. The cooperation with Abu Dhabi Ports would be beneficial not only for Bar port but also for the Montenegrin state, given the harbour's economic importance, the government said. "The geographical position of Bar port, as well as the insufficiently utilised harbour capacities, can be an incentive for a company from the UAE to improve its performance by investing and transferring knowledge," transport minister Osman Nutkovic noted. Abu Dhabi Ports operates 11 ports and terminals in UAE and Guinea.

## Indian ships to arrive at Chabahar port every two weeks

Afghanistan is all set to use Chabahar to connect to India. According to Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, Afghanistan is preparing to ship the first cargo of 5 containers through Chabahar to India and this will happen within a months time. The cargo will contain mung beans and each container will weigh about 22 tons. The delivery of cargo will be carried out under the International Road Transports (TIR) system. According to Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Transport quoted by Iranian Ministry, "this cargo will be shipped as a pilot form Afghanistan to India." TIR system streamlines procedures at borders and reduces the administrative burden for customs authorities. Meanwhile, India has formally established shipping lines to Chabahar. The first such ship arrived on Sunday. This was announced in a release from the Iranian Prime Minister's office. It has been decided that regular ships from three Indian ports – Mumbai, Kandla and Mundra – will now regularly go to the Iranian port every 2 weeks. The Director-General of Sistan-Baluchestan Ports and Maritime Organisation Behrouz Aqayee said in the release, "With the arrival of the first 3700TEU container at Shahid Beheshti Chabahar port, for the first time, the shipping line between the ports of Mumbai-Mundra-Kandla have opened".

## New Sri Lanka shipping policy sees lower dependence on Indian cargo

Sri Lanka's new national policy for its maritime and logistics sectors foresees reduced dependence on Indian container transshipment cargo, Colombo port's main business for years, given changes in shipping services and emerging competition from other ports. The final draft of the national policy that aligns the maritime and logistics sectors to reap better economic benefits was presented to Minister of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development Sagala Ratnayaka Thursday, a statement said. The National Policy for Maritime and Logistics Sectors was drafted by a committee comprised with leading experts on maritime affairs chaired by Secretary to the Ministry of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development Parakrama Dissanayake. "Major Sri Lankan ports need to transform themselves from 'regional transshipment hubs' to 'Global Maritime Hubs' in order to face the competition from emerging new regional transshipment ports as well as traditional global competitors," the statement quoted the policy as saying. "Continued dependence on the Indian subcontinent for a major portion of business will no longer be possible due to emerging regional competition, expansion of direct mainliner service to traditional feeder ports and changes in cabotage laws.

## New direct rail service deepens JNPT's reach

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) — India's busiest container harbor — has started handling import cargo booked under direct port delivery (DPD) services by containerized rail — boosting stakeholder efforts to shift more freight from road to other modes, as part of a larger program to alleviate congestion and increase supply chain efficiency. DP World's Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT), via Container Corporation of India (Concor), last week operated a "DPD rail service" to Karambeli, near Vapi — a hinterland point about 120 miles from JNPT. The mixed/combined train transported 20 DPD containers, with NSICT reportedly contributing 15 TEU and the remainder coming from the port-owned Jawaharlal Nehru Container Terminal (JNCT), sources told. DP World Nhava wasn't available for comment. For the Dubai-based operator, which has two terminals at JNPT, this rail operation is seen as another "DPD first," after introducing "on-wheel examination and sampling" services for such cargo in May 2018. DPD enables accredited importers to clear their cargo directly from the wharf within 48 hours of landing at the port, instead of via an off-dock container freight station (CFS) — a long-time model fraught with delays and extra costs.

## Hutchison ports officially opens terminal d at Laem Chabang port in Thailand

Hutchison Ports will be investing US\$600 million in Terminal D which will be the most advanced deep-sea container terminal in Thailand. As one of the world's first container terminals to be fully equipped with remote control technology for all of its quay cranes and yard side rubber tyred gantry cranes, Terminal D is already handling some of the world's largest container vessels currently in operation. On full completion, Terminal D will increase Laem Chabang Port's container handling capacity by approximately 40%. Hutchison Ports Thailand, the leading port operator in Thailand, officially opened its Terminal D facility at Laem Chabang Port, Chonburi. Already attracting some of the world's largest ocean going container vessels, Terminal D's world leading remote control technology will significantly boost Hutchison Ports Thailand's operational efficiency and productivity, heralding a new era for Thailand as a global shipping hub. Terminal D, one of the world's first container terminals fully equipped with remote control technology for all of its quay cranes and yard side rubber tyred gantry cranes, will be the largest and most advanced deep sea container terminal in Thailand, with the capability of handling some of the world's largest ocean going container vessels currently in operation.

## First LNG bunkering for CMA CGM container ship in Rotterdam

CMA CGM Group reported it bunkered its first container ship with LNG on 24 January at the Port Rotterdam. The refuelling also marked the first time a container shipping line in Europe performed a ship-to-ship bunkering with LNG. 1,400-TEU Containership Nord, operated by Containerships, a subsidiary of CMA CGM, was refuelled with 240M tonnes of LNG at lay bay berth in a ship-to-ship LNG bunkering operation with Shell's 6,500-m3 bunker vessel Cardissa. This will allow Containership Nord to travel from Rotterdam to St Petersburg, Russia and back traversing through the Kiel Canal twice, according to Containerships. "We are proud to supply Containerships with a cleaner-burning and viable fuel for the shipping industry," said Tahir Faruqi, general manager, Shell Global Downstream LNG. "LNG bunkering is a very safe operation and we look forward to conducting simultaneous operations with Containerships in the future," he added. In the future, Containerships will conduct simultaneous operations, bunkering LNG at a berth while loading or discharging cargo. This will enhance operational efficiency. Containerships Nord is the first in a series of four newbuilds from Chinese shipbuilder Wenchong Shipyard, Guangzhou. Delivery of three sister vessels is set for later this year.

## Maersk to reflag UK Vessels, end training of cadets amid Brexit chaos

Danish shipping giant Maersk plans to reflag UK vessels and end training of cadets in advance of Britain leaving the European Union in March, maritime trade union Nautilus said. As informed, the company decided to take its remaining vessels off the UK Ship Register, exit the UK Tonnage Tax and end the training of UK cadets. This decision "will have a serious impact on seafarers jobs and the stability of the UK industry", Nautilus has warned. Europe's largest shipping company is following in the footsteps of ferry and logistics company P&O which last week announced it was reflagging all its short sea vessels to Cyprus due to Brexit uncertainty and the desire for its ships to be flagged in an EU member state. According to Nautilus, Maersk has confirmed it will stop taking in cadets from the UK, following a decrease in demand for junior officers, as it moves to a different manning structure and model. Although all current cadets will have their training completed to allow them to gain their Certificate of Competence, the news adds to the pressure on the future for UK seafarers, already under threat as the nation moves closer to exit from the EU at the end of March, Nautilus said.

## Global satellite firm Spire moves into shipping industry

One of the world's biggest satellite companies has announced a move into the global shipping industry. US firm Spire has been developing technology to support maritime radar, which helps ships avoid collisions at sea. The company, which has a key manufacturing facility in Glasgow, gathers data through its low-Earth orbit satellite network. Spire's John Lusk said the industry as a whole was on the cusp of huge growth. Mr Lusk, general manager of Spire Maritime, said the space data they collected was of use to the maritime industry. He said: "We're able to take that data, tracking ships in the wide open ocean and do data analytics and provide solutions for companies in the maritime industry to help them become more efficient." He added: "We've been operating in 'stealth mode' for the last year, trying to get a sense of if there was an opportunity with our maritime data." Our customers are constantly asking us for more solutions around the maritime industry, we felt this was a great opportunity to spin off maritime as a business." San Francisco-based Spire, whose European headquarters is in Luxembourg, is also playing a key role in Scotland's growing space industry.