



## FCA, Dubai Exports partner to facilitate business, expertise

The Federal Customs Authority (FCA), signed a memorandum of understanding, MoU, with Dubai Exports Corporation, a Dubai economic institutions, with a view to boost joint collaboration, facilitate business and trade for Dubai emirate's exporters and share information and expertise between the parties. The MoU was remotely executed by Alia Almarmoom, Managing Director of Customs Affairs Sector, FCA, and Saed Alawadi, Managing Director of Dubai Exports Corporation. Alia Almarmoom said the MoU embodies the FCA's keenness to reinforce partnership relations with the most eminent strategic partners in foreign trade and customs operations in the country, and the desire to foster collaboration and coordination with these partners to pave the way for achieving UAE vision 2021, in addition to underpinning the prudent government's strategy to attain sustainable development and a leading position in economy and customs regionally and globally. "We are proud of our partnership with Dubai Exports Corporation and delighted to execute this MoU with it as it is the concerned entity in the emirate of Dubai to furnish exports promotion and developments services to local community and support industry in the emirate," she added.

## Cargo from Dubai arrives in Haifa, cementing Israel-UAE trade route

The ship-to-shore crane paused above the cargo ship just arrived from Dubai, then set its load down on the pier in Israel. One after another, eight containers filled with electronics, cleaning supplies, iron and firefighting equipment were unloaded off the MSC Paris, one of the first cargo ships to make the journey between the United Arab Emirates and Israel. Just a few months ago, such a journey from Dubai's Jebel Ali port to the northern Israeli port city of Haifa would have been unthinkable. The countries announced a normalisation deal in August which laid the ground for a potentially profitable new trade route. The diplomatic breakthrough stemmed from a strategic realignment of Middle East nations, in particular Israel and Gulf Arab nations. But it is also grounded in economics and potential collaborations in the fields of business, investment and technology. Israeli officials have estimated bilateral trade could reach as much as \$4 billion a year – and nearly all goods will have to travel by sea.

## Incheon Port announces smart port plan as part of Korean New Deal program

Incheon Port Authority announced on Sunday a multiproject plan to build a smart port, a move in line with the country's New Deal program that seeks a way out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the plan, a total of 35 projects will take place to build a smart port that is eco-friendly, safe and beneficial to the local economy. The IPA said it set out the goals after co-opting the government's new deal strategy. As part of efforts to go smart, the Incheon Port will adopt a completely automated system for its new "phase 1-2" container terminal with a schedule to open in 2025, it said. The automation system will see remote-controlled automated guided vehicles powered by electricity introduced, which can speed up workflow, reduce pollution and risks posed to staff. The IPA also plans to make the new smart distribution center a shareable platform so that the system can be provided at an affordable price to some 60 small and medium-sized businesses starting from 2023. To keep things green, the port authorities said they will pursue "various research and development projects," including a facility control system that relies on artificial intelligence and self-driving drones.

## India Govt drafts new Bill solely for coastal shipping

The government has drafted a Bill to oversee India's coastal shipping sector, which seeks to give a "legal structure" to the right of first refusal (RoFR) granted to local fleet owners operating their ships between ports in the country. The Coastal Shipping Bill 2020 has been drafted by carving out chapter 14 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1958, which deals with grant of licences for coasting trade in India. A couple of years ago, the government exempted Indian vessels from obtaining any kind of licence for coasting trade; their registration was considered as a licence. "Now, there is a thought that we should have a proper coastal shipping strategy. Earlier, the right of first refusal rule was actually an executive order based on Chapter 14, which said that the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) can set conditions for grant of licence. But those conditions should ideally have been conditions on the vessel but we put it in the business clause, basically saying that you first look at Indian vessels and if Indian vessels are not available only then you can apply for a licence to use foreign ships for coastal trade," D G Shipping Amitabh Kumar told.

## India Govt extends 40% discount on cargo movement between India and Chabahar Port

The union shipping ministry on Friday said it has extended the current 40% discount for movement of cargo between India and Chabahar port in Iran for one more year to encourage trade. "The Ministry of Shipping has extended the current concessional rate of 40% discount for coastal movement of cargo and vessel related charges, for a period of further one year to clients for cargo being handled at Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Deendayal Port from/to Shahid Beheshti Port, Chabahar, Iran," an official statement said. Chabahar is located less than 100 nautical miles from the Chinese built port of Gwadar in Pakistan. The levy of concessional vessel related charges (VRC) will be applied proportionately, subject to vessel loading at least 50 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) or 5000 MT cargo to ShahidBeheshti Port. The ports will coordinate with Indian Ports Global Ltd and jointly evolve a standard operating procedure (SOP) to ensure that discounts are given to cargo is actually discharged or loaded at ShahidBeheshti terminal of Chabahar Port, it said.

## New shipping line to link Omani ports with Iraq

Asyad Group has announced the launch of the first shipping line between Oman ports and Iraq's Umm Qasr Port. This notable move bolsters the Group's efforts to expand the maritime transport network between Oman and the world, facilitate cross-regional trade, boost direct export and import and provide logistics solutions to its customers. This direct line will start operating a weekly trip connecting Oman ports (Salalah, Duqm and Suhar) with Iraq's Umm Qasr Port. The service affirms Oman's well-established position as a logistics hub and seeks to shore up direct export and import of goods from their countries of origin. The newly introduced direct line not only will increase the volume of intra-regional trade, but it will also open up new investment prospects between Oman and Iraq. In addition to enhancing both countries' re-export capabilities, the new direct operations between Oman ports and Umm Qasr Port will provide various options to businessmen, exporters, importers, and shipping agents for exporting Omani products and importing Iraqi commodities.

## CMA CGM's LNG-powered giant sets world record

The 23,000 TEU CMA CGM Jacques Saade, the world's largest LNG-powered containership, has set a world record for the number of full containers loaded on a single vessel. On its departure from Singapore on 12 October, the new flagship of the French shipping major CMA CGM was carrying a record 20,723 full containers onboard. After joining the group's fleet on 22 September, the CMA CGM Jacques Saade is now on its maiden voyage on CMA CGM's French Asia Line (FAL 1), connecting Asia with Europe. It was when the giant boxship made its call in Singapore that it broke the world record in terms of the number of containers carried on a single vessel. This has been described by CMA CGM as "a major operational and commercial achievement" for a vessel designed to preserve air quality and accelerate energy transition in the shipping industry. The new world record set by the CMA CGM containership comes two weeks after the group suffered a cyber attack. The attack that occurred on 28 September was impacting CMA CGM's peripheral servers. Following the attack, the group interrupted all internal access to its network and computer application in order to isolate the malware and take protective measures. In the latest update shared on 11 October, CMA CGM informed that all its e-commerce sites are once again live with all their main functionalities up and running.