

DP World reports 13.5% container volume hike in third quarter

DP World, the world's fourth largest ports operator, said gross container volumes increased by 13.5 per cent year-on-year on a reported basis in the third quarter of 2017, on an improved trading environment. The operator said it handled 18,282 TEU across its global portfolio of container terminals in the three months to the end of September, up from 16,103 TEU in the same period of 2016. The reported basis includes new terminals, and represents an increase on second quarter growth rates of 10.7 per cent. DP World said the rise was due to an improved global trade outlook. In September, the WTO upgraded its global trade growth forecast for 2017 to 3.6 per cent from 2.4 per cent previously. DP World said this improvement was reflected across its three regions – the Middle East & Africa, Europe and the Americas – which all saw third quarter growth rates accelerate more than in the second quarter of 2017. In the UAE, volumes grew 4.6 per cent year-on-year to 11.6 million TEU in the nine months to September.

Dutch Port firms ink cooperation deal with Fujairah Port

Dutch Port of Amsterdam, STC-Group Holding and Iskes Towage & Salvage are looking to expand their cooperation with UAE-based oil storage and bunkering hub Port of Fujairah (PoF). The parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Amsterdam which focuses on further strategic cooperation. Located on the east coast of the United Arab Emirates, the port of Fujairah has seen tremendous growth in the past decades, turning from a regional multi-purpose port into an important part of the global oil supply chain. As part of Amsterdam Port Consultants (APC), a port advisory foundation consisting of partners with strong ties to Amsterdam, Port of Amsterdam, STC-Group and Iskes executed an assessment of the current marine operations in the port of Fujairah in 2015. Recommendations were implemented since then, while Iskes and STC-Group set up training programmes for PoF employees. With the conclusion of the implementation track, all parties expressed a desire to continue the cooperation.

ICTSI to pump in \$100m for Phase 2 Basra port development

International Container Terminal Services Inc (ICTSI) is pumping in \$100m for another two berths in the phase two development of the Basra Gateway Terminal (BGT) in North Port, Umm Qasr, Iraq. ICTSI said in a press release that chairman and president Enrique Razon Jr had just signed the expansion agreement paving the way for the two new berths, Berth 25 and Berth 26 to be developed. The berths will boost annual capacity at BGT by 600,000 teu to a total of 1.2m teu and the terminal will be able to take in vessels of up to 10,000 teu. Combined with the adjacent Berth 27, it will offer a 600m continuous quay length and 50 hectares of yard area, with new container handling systems working in conjunction with state-of-the-art terminal operating systems. "This new \$100m investment follows hot on the heels of ICTSI's development of Berth 27 and the rehabilitation and upgrade of berths 19, 20 & 21, a \$150m investment," noted Razon. The expansion project will be undertaken by ICTSI unit BGT, with construction scheduled to start immediately.

Ocean carrier Transmar enters into partnership with INTTRA for Middle East, Africa region

INTTRA, the ocean container shipping industry's largest neutral network, and Transmar Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of IACC Holdings and a leading carrier, have announced a new relationship for electronic booking and shipping instructions processing in the Middle East, Red Sea, Arabian Gulf and East Coast of Africa. Transmar customers may now send their booking and shipping instructions through INTTRA's global network to provide more efficient services for customers by shifting to digital transactions and improving operational efficiencies. "The addition of Transmar as one of our newest carriers to address the Middle East, Red Sea, Arabian Gulf and the East Coast of Africa, means their customers will have a more efficient way to book containers and receive container tracking information," said Inna Kuznetsova, INTTRA's president and COO. "Transmar's path to achieving growth and customer satisfaction is through digitisation and optimisation, which has the potential to take cost out of our operations," said Mohamed El Ahwal, CEO, Transmar.

Rotterdam up 10.1pc to 10.2 million TEU in first 9 months of 2017

"This has proven a fine quarter for our port statistics," said port authority CEO Allard Castelein. "Still, this growth is offset by lower volumes of coal due to the closure of two coal-fired power plants. Likewise, the throughput of fuel oil in the third quarter was also lower," he said. The port's total throughput in 2017 is expected to be one to two per cent higher than that recorded in 2016. Said Mr Castelein: "Reviewing the coalition agreement recently published by the new Dutch government, it appears that in the period ahead, the government will be devoting more attention to the challenges that face us in the longer term." Container throughput in the first nine months was up 11.7 per cent in term of tonnes, mainly due to an increase in the number of laden boxes. In the third quarter, the port saw a 3.1 per cent increase in containers segment compared to the second quarter, surpassing a record second quarter growth. "At the very least, Rotterdam's market share in the Hamburg-Le Havre range is expected to remain stable at the highest level since 2001 as 30.9 per cent in TEU terms," said the port statement.

DP World in 2071 ecosystem initiative

Global trade enabler DP World has been signed on as a founding partner of Area 2071, an innovative ecosystem initiative designed to shape the future of the UAE and position it as the best nation in the world, which is central to achieving the UAE Centennial 2071 Plan. In the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, at a signing ceremony at Emirates Towers, DP World Group Chairman and CEO, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, committed the company's support to the future-focused initiative. Area 2071 will be an important vehicle in realising the five-decade, nation-wide plan by focussing on its four main tenets: education, economy, government development, and community cohesion. In partnership with governments who bring to the project their scale and regulation pathways, corporates and 'experimenters' including researchers, practitioners, founders and creatives will seek to transform industries with disruptive intent.

Modi's Ro-Ro is already a Go Go for both Indians and India Inc

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the Rs 600 crore roll-on, roll-off (RoRo) Ghogha-Dahej ferry service as the first of its kind, not only for India but also for Southeast Asia, while inaugurating the project during his recent visit to Gujarat. This surprised many as RoRo vessels are already being used by companies to move cars, coal and fertiliser across the country. All key ports in the country provide RoRo shipping service. The only difference is that the Ghogha-Dahej route carries passenger traffic too, unlike others which are exclusively being used for transporting goods. However, even here, much smaller ferries in Goa, Kerala and Andaman transport passengers too. In Maharashtra, ferry services are available between Alibaug and Mumbai (Gateway of India). In fact, the fastest and cheapest way to travel between the two places is ferry. The ferry service between Ferry Wharf or Bhaucha Dhakka in Mumbai and Panjim in Goa was operational as far back as 1970s. The service was discontinued during Indian peace-keeping mission in Sri Lanka when ferries were diverted for carrying Indian troops to the war-zone.

Record-setting cargo moved through Jacksonville Port Authority terminals

Aided by a rising economic tide, the Jacksonville Port Authority posted record numbers for shipping automobiles and cargo containers during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. The port authority's terminals broke through the 1 million mark for cargo container units, posting a 7-percent annual increase in shipments of the metal boxes that contain a multitude of consumer goods. JaxPort notched a 9-percent gain in automobile shipments, finishing the year with 693,241 vehicles. The growth in automobile shipments is squeezing the capacity at port authority terminals. "We're challenged with space, and we're trying to work through that," JaxPort CEO Eric Green said at the port authority's Monday board meeting. The Georgia Ports Authority, whose Brunswick port competes fiercely with Jacksonville for automobiles, has expanded its capacity to 800,000 vehicles per year, JaxPort Executive Vice President Roy Schleicher noted. He said plans to provide vehicle storage at the Dames Point terminal west of the Dames Point Bridge will boost JaxPort's overall capacity to 900,000 vehicles per year.

Container segment to drive growth at Indian ports

Container segment is expected to fuel the next stage of growth at Indian ports. Major ports in the country are already ramping up container handling capacity despite sluggish global container and freight movement in the past two years. A report by Care Ratings has pegged the cargo container handling of ports in the country to reach 25 million TEUs by 2020-21 from the current 13 million TEUs. Non-major ports are set to add higher capacities in this segment. "We expect the same (global container movement) to recover globally over the next 2-3 years. We also expect a pick-up in containerisation of a wider variety of cargo in India, since handling and transportation becomes faster and easier," the report stated. With the Sagarmala programme aiming to increase the depth of major ports so as to cut time on trans-shipping of goods, the ports would be able to handle new generation mega vessels over the next two to three years. Presently, petroleum and its products account for 25-30 per cent of the import-export volume of the country. The government intends to double the petroleum refining capacity to meet the domestic demand and also augment exports.

Kandla Port of Gujarat gets green nod to develop Rs1,176 crore smart city

State-owned Kandla Port Trust has received environment clearance for setting up a Rs 1,176-crore smart industrial port city in Kutch, Gujarat, a senior official said. The proposal is to develop a smart industrial port city at two separate sites in Gandhidham which would house about 35,700 residential flats, schools and parks, and would generate jobs to more than 60,000 people. "The environment ministry examined the Kandla Port's proposal and gave the final environment clearance for developing a smart city at two identified sites," a senior government official said. Separate proposals for the two sites were submitted and both have been cleared with some riders after taking into account the ministry's expert panel, the official said. As per the proposal, one smart port city in 580 acres has been proposed at Adipur side on South of Tagore road, while the second site over an area of 850 acres is near KPT complex in Gandhidham. Total 35,714 flats will be developed in both the sites and maximum height of the building would be 12 metre. Total project cost is estimated to be 1,176 crore.