

### DP World Jumps on the Digitization Bandwagon

Dubai-based terminal operator DP World has embarked on a programme to drive digital transformation across its business operations worldwide using Oracle Cloud Applications (SaaS). DP World Group Chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem and Oracle Business Applications Senior Vice President (ECEMEA) Arun Khehar, signed today the agreement to develop an integrated technology platform. In line with the deal, Oracle's Cloud applications would be used to standardize DP World's key processes including finance, operations, procurement and human resources. As part of this new platform it will also incorporate technologies in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Internet Of Things (IoT) and Block Chain, to deliver smarter operations and create intelligent logistics, DP World said. "Our decision to partner with Oracle is driven by our vision for global connectivity through intelligent logistics, reducing costs and creating value for all our stakeholders. Innovative tech solutions are the way forward in the 21st century and we're equipping ourselves with an effective platform to grow into new sectors where technology can maximize efficiencies and enable us to deliver transformational products and services," Sulayem said.

### Dubai Maritime City Authority to launch second term of Maritime Advisory Council

The Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA) of the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, has revealed that it has already started to adopt and implement the final phase of its strategy related to the incoming second terms of the Maritime Advisory Council, an initiative aimed at promoting and developing close partnerships between the government and private sectors to promote Dubai as a global maritime capital. The beginning of the new term signals a new stage of further cooperation in the efforts towards integration between maritime leaders from the public and private sectors in order to drive the transformation of Dubai to a city of sustainable economic growth—in line with the objectives of the Dubai 2021 Plan. The new council will build on what has been accomplished in the concluded initial stage and develop new frameworks to improve the quality, efficiency and comprehensiveness of the maritime sector, complementing the Emirate's pivotal role as one of the world's top maritime capitals for 2017. As part of the strategic move, Mark Gistebrich, Regional President of Maersk Global Operations in Dubai, has been appointed to lead the Council for the new term.

### UK Gov't doubles SMarT budget

More than 400 extra cadets will be trained in maritime roles every year thanks to a GBP 15 million (USD 21.2 million) funding boost announced by the UK government today. The investment, which will double the support for young people to GBP 30 million a year, will be offered through Support for Maritime Training (SMarT), enabling the annual intake of cadets to rise from 750 to 1,200. Announcing the decision, Nusrat Ghani, Maritime Minister, said: "We are building the maritime workforce of tomorrow and I want to encourage more young people to consider an exciting and rewarding career at sea." "By doubling the funding for cadet training, we will help make sure that our engineers and captains of the future can access the right opportunities to reach their full potential," Ghani added. The SMarT Plus proposal was developed by UK Chamber of Shipping and trade union Nautilus. Shipping companies including Maersk Line, Stena Line, Carnival UK, BP and Shell have pledged to create an extra 450 training positions on board ships. As explained, these positions will give SMarT cadets the experience at sea that will help them gain internationally recognized qualifications. The funding will increase annually over seven years to fulfill demand for seafarer training.

### Gwadar gains economic vitality after launch of free zone

Despite its advantageous location on the shores of the Arabian Sea, the Gwadar has long remained underdeveloped in the past; however the launch of an economic free zone in Gwadar is bound to change the fate of the area, Chinese state media has reported. Recently, the economy of the prominent city in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan seems to gear up, especially with the launching of the Gwadar free trade zone on Jan 29, reviving hopes for it to become a global trade hub. Launching of the free trade zone was a historic moment. It is the beginning of a dream coming true, Ahsan Iqbal, Pakistani Minister for Interior and Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, had said at the launching ceremony, the Chinese state media said. Less than a year ago, the Gwadar port complex was still a giant construction site. Now it has become a brand new modern harbor boasting giant brand new cranes, hotels, warehouses, factories and a business centre. The unprecedented pace of development convinced locals of the future of Gwadar. "Gwadar will lead the take-off of Pakistan's economy. It will be the next Dubai or Hong Kong," local banker Masood Awan said.

### Better infrastructure, lower tariffs push India foreign transshipment lower

India's coastal shipping program, aided by lower port tariffs, dedicated infrastructure, and liberalized cabotage rules, is bearing fruit, as domestic demand for foreign transshipment diminished in fiscal year 2016 to 2017, which ended in March. The analysis shows the number of export-import containers relayed over various foreign ports for India's major, public ports in the last fiscal year declined 2 percent to 2.78 million TEU from 2.84 million TEU in the prior year. Major ports together account for roughly 70 percent of the Indian containerized freight. Notably, that change came despite a 3 percent container throughput growth at major ports during the same year. However, transshipment cargo still represented 33 percent of the Indian major ports' combined volume, or 8.4 million TEU, for fiscal 2016 to 2017. Transshipment traffic is the cargo that is transported between an Indian port and an international hub port. Several Indian major ports, particularly on the east coast, lack the necessary draft and other infrastructure capabilities to handle the latest-generation ships, and as such, these ports mostly carry out feeder activities, meaning they send and receive domestic cargo routed via other hub ports in the region.

### Dubai DP World reinforces commitment to Canada

The importance of Canada to DP World's global operations and the global trade enabler's commitment to the country were a focus of discussions between DP World group chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a bilateral meeting at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Bin Sulayem presented an update of the global trade enabler's activities in all its locations and conveyed the importance of the country in its growth strategy. He underlined DP World's commitment to Canada and continuing appreciation of the support of the Canadian government. He also detailed how DP World supports the national economy through its range of operations, community engagement and investment commitments including terminals in Vancouver and Prince Rupert on the west coast and Saint John, New Brunswick, on the east. Bin Sulayem stressed the employment opportunities and ongoing partnership with First Nation communities as evidence of how DP World works closely with local people. This was particularly evident in Prince Rupert where DP World operates the Fairview Container Terminal.

### DP World's Mozambique port cargo volumes up 22pc

Dubai-based global marine terminal operator DP World said the amount of cargo handled by its port of Maputo surged 22 per cent to hit 18.2 million tonnes last year from 14.9 million tonnes in 2016. The growth was mainly influenced by the dredging of the port access channel, which was completed in January 2017, increasing its depth from 11 to 14.2 m. Until the channel was dredged, the largest size ship that could enter the port was about 55,000 tonnes, stated Maputo Port Development Company (MPDC), the consortium operating the port. MPDC is a joint venture between DP World, Mozambique's publicly-owned ports and rail company CFM, Grindrod of South Africa, and the private company Mozambique Gestores. The dredging increased the cargo capacity in Maputo by 40 per cent, and the capacity of the Matola end of the port by 55 per cent, said the managing director Osorio Lucas. The largest ship that used the port in 2017 was the bulk carrier 'MV Amani, carrying 96,400 tonnes of magnetite. The number of ships which used the port declined from 955 in 2016 to 896 in 2017 – but those ships carried an additional 3.3 million tonnes of cargo. The Matola Coal Terminal began to rehabilitate its quay in July 2017, increasing its depth to 15.4 m.

### India's logistics sector to reach USD 215 bn by 2020: Survey

The country's logistics industry which is worth around USD 160 billion is likely to touch USD 215 billion in the next two years with the implementation of GST, Economic Survey said. "With the implementation of GST, the Indian logistics market is expected to reach about USD 215 billion in 2020, growing at a CAGR of 10.5 per cent," Economic Survey 2017-18 tabled in Parliament said. The Indian logistics industry which provides employment to more than 22 million people has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.8 per cent during the last five years, it said. The Global Ranking of the World Bank's 2016 Logistics Performance Index shows that India jumped to 35th rank in 2016 from 54th rank in 2014 in terms of overall logistics performance. India has improved its rank in all the six components of logistics performance index, it added. Realising the importance of the sector and to address the inefficiencies, the government has included the sector in the Harmonised Master List of Infrastructure Subsector. "Inclusion of logistics sector in the Harmonised Master List of Infrastructure Subsector will benefit the sector in many ways," it said.

### Ocean Network Express (ONE) set for operations from April 1

With all regulatory clearances attained, Ocean Network Express Pte. Ltd (ONE), the new major global container shipping company formed from the amalgamation of the container liner businesses of MOL, NYK and "K" Line, is all set to commence operations on April 1, 2018. According to Mr Jeremy Nixon who is the CEO at ONE, it will offer an extensive liner network service portfolio covering over 100 countries internationally. Its key focus will be on enhanced service and innovation, supported by a highly professional and experienced staff organisation, with a strong financial balance sheet. "ONE emerged from the legacy of three Japanese liner companies who historically prided themselves on high level service quality and process excellence. These characteristics, which we highly cherish, are also the founding core principles of ONE. The new company's global headquarters will be in Singapore, to further enhance its intended strong international trading presence. With a global fleet of over 250 vessels, active participation in all major global trade lanes, deployment of the latest IT systems and an extensive terminal ownership portfolio, ONE positions itself as being "large enough to survive, but still small enough to care".

### India signs agreement with Russian firm to manufacture inland shipping vessels

Government of India-controlled Cochin Shipyard Limited said it signed an agreement with Russia's largest shipbuilding company to jointly design and manufacture inland and coastal ships in India to enable the government's Sagar Mala program. Sagar Mala is a 8 lakh cr investment initiative of the Government of India to promote the use of water ways - including the coastal sea and rivers - for transporting goods. At present, nearly all goods in India are transported using the less efficient road and rail methods as the country has traditionally ignored its rivers and seas. The agreement has been signed with Joint Stock Company United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) of Russia, which is the largest shipbuilding holding in Russia, according to Cochin Shipyard Ltd. The deal covers the design and manufacturing of high-speed vessels, river-sea cargo vessels, passenger Vessels, hovercrafts and other watercrafts predominantly for use in India. USC has under it 40 enterprises including shipyards with more than 300 years' experience, that have contributed to the growth of inland waterways in Russia, it added. It is expected to boost India's exports by about one fourth or \$110 billion, and generate 1.5 lakh direct jobs and many more indirect jobs.