



Abu Dhabi Terminal launches direct service to Europe and Indian Subcontinent

COSCO Shipping Ports (CSP)'s Abu Dhabi Terminal has launched a direct, weekly service to several ports across Europe and the Indian Subcontinent. The new direct service will be served by a fleet of eight vessels on rotation, ranging in capacity between 10,000 to 13,000 teu. Direct exports from Abu Dhabi to the ports of Rotterdam, Hamburg, London, Antwerp and Le Havre will consist primarily of polymers while returning vessels will carry a mix of general and project cargo imports. This new service will also benefit the ports of Karachi, Nhava Sheva and Mundra. Naser Al Busaedi, deputy CEO at CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal, said: "More than a year on since CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal officially launched, we are now well-positioned to bring our direct service offering to a global audience. "Our new services will significantly increase the movement of cargo exports and imports between Abu Dhabi, Europe and India, providing our customers with solutions to tackle their international shipment needs, as well as the opportunity to target new markets." Mohamed Eidha Tannaf Al Menhali, acting Director at Khalifa Port, said: "This new dedicated service marks an important strategic step to transform Khalifa Port's end-to-end logistics capability.

Dubai Trade launches single window trade platform

Dubai Trade, the UAE Region's single window platform for cross-border trade, has launched ZADI, a unified food import platform aimed at facilitating the import and re-export of food shipments throughout Dubai's ports, according to DP World. In a statement, DP World described the platform as the "first-of-its-kind" in the Middle East. It will be part of Dubai Trade's drive to be the leading integrated platform in all import and re-export services. Additionally, it will also align with the UAE's plans for the post-COVID-19 era that it hopes to ensure a robust recovery and development. The platform will help over 18,000 companies in Dubai execute 360,000 transactions annually via its streamlined process, according to DP World. Mohammed Al Muallem, CEO and Managing Director, DP World, UAE Region, said: "The launch of ZADI by Dubai Trade comes as part of our commitment to fulfilling the directives of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to make the UAE one of the leading countries worldwide in the post-pandemic economic recovery. "

INR 10,000 cr transshipment port at Great Nicobar Island on cards: Prime Minister Modi

India is considering investing INR 10,000 crore for building a transshipment port at Great Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal to provide shippers an alternative to similar ports in the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he inaugurated the first undersea optical fibre project to provide high-speed internet to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The 2,312-kilometer-long submarine optical fibre cable from Chennai to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, laid at a cost of INR 1,224 crore, will provide "better and cheaper connectivity", he said. "There is a proposal to build a transshipment port at Great Nicobar at an estimated expenditure of about INR 10,000 crore. Large ships can dock once this port is ready," he said at the inauguration ceremony held through video link. The transshipment port would enable big ships to anchor and raise India's share in maritime trade as well as create new job opportunities, he said. The Prime Minister also said Andaman & Nicobar will be developed as a hub of port-led development as it is at a competitive distance from many ports of the world.

CMA CGM takes 49% stake in HMM's Algeiras container terminal

CMA CGM has signed a sales and purchase agreement with HMM to acquire a 49% stake in Total Terminal Algeiras (TTIA). The remaining 51% of the Spanish container hub port will remain under the control of the South Korean carrier, by reason of its ownership of HT Algeiras, a special purpose company. HMM said it expected "a great synergy effect, based on the strategic cooperation with CMA CGM" from "enhancing profitability and operational capabilities", as well as by securing additional business. An HMM official said: "TTI Algeiras has a great geographical advantage to play an integral role as a transshipment hub at the centre of containerised cargo flow on main trade lanes." In June, HMM confirmed via a Korea Exchange filing that it was selling a stake in the facility for KRW59bn (\$50m) as it sought to strengthen liquidity after five consecutive years of losses. The sale still needs the approval of the European Union, along with the Spanish and South Korean governments, but there are not expected to be any objections. TTIA was originally owned by HMM's now bankrupt compatriot Hanjin Shipping, and was acquired by HMM from the receivers in 2017 for an undisclosed fee.

Incentives to lift shipping sector in Pakistan

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi has unveiled a new shipping policy that will lift the country's maritime sector to new heights. Addressing a Press conference in Islamabad along with adviser to the prime minister on commerce and investment Abdul Razaq Dawood, he said shipping companies can now take advantage of liberal fiscal concessions and low mark up rates offered by the State Bank under the long-term finance facility (LTF) to acquire ships flying the Pakistan flag. "This business-friendly policy will reduce the annual freight bill of \$5 billion+ on Pakistan," the minister said. Also, the minister stated, the new policy will generate much-needed employment opportunities for Pakistani seafarers/allied sectors. Zaidi praised the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan for the renewed interest in the maritime sector as well as declaring 2020 as the year of the Blue Economy. Zaidi said that Pakistan flag vessels would be given priority berthing at all ports of the country.

Iran, Afghanistan ink MoU in transit field: official

The Director General of Sistan and Baluchestan Ports and Maritime Department General revealed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Afghanistan's private sector in the field of transit via Chabahar Port. He made the remarks on Wed. and reiterated, "a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked with the private sector of Afghanistan in Chabahar Port in line with expanding and broadening transit and investment cooperation." Given the good neighborliness between the two countries, this Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Afghanistan's private sector in order to develop transit and investment activities of private sector of Afghanistan in the field of transporting, attracting investor, logistics and transit within the framework of transit rules and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Under the MoU, the private sector of Afghanistan was committed to transferring Afghanistan's transit goods via Shahid Rajaei Port in Chabahar to the target markets, he added.



APM Terminals grows presence in Aarhus with ALC terminal acquisition

A.P. Moller-Maersk's APM Terminals has acquired from Aarhus Logistics Center A/S (ALC) its container terminal in the port of Aarhus. Neighbouring APM Terminals Aarhus will take over the operations as well as the port areas of ALC effective September 1. The terminal was established by ALC in 2017, however due to limitations regarding area capacity and lack of prospects ALC decided to divest the terminal to the much larger operation at APM Terminals in Aarhus. With APM Terminals as owners, ALC clients will have direct access to regular train services as well as a worldwide liner network. "We are acquiring an interesting business with loyal clients, who will now gain access to a bigger network, and with that new development opportunities for their business. At the same time, we expect to be able to make the clients' workday more efficient as administration decreases with just one operator," said Dennis Olesen, managing director Nordics at APM Terminals.

China to promote Tianjin port as an international shipping hub

China's National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Transport jointly issued guidelines to speed up Tianjin's development to be an international shipping hub in north China. The aim is by 2025, Tianjin's position as the international shipping hub in north China will become more prominent, with it striving to be one of the top 20 international shipping hubs. The port aims to achieve 560m tonnes cargo throughput and 22m teu container throughput by 2025 and make breakthroughs in terms of intelligent and green port construction. According to the guidelines, Tianjin will promote professional terminals construction, improve public shipping channel navigation capacity and promote port facility construction for large size vessels, as well as multi-model transportation capacity improvement. Authorities will also support Tianjin port to consolidate port resources locally, and promote the coordinated development of ports in Tianjin and Hebei province.