



UK ports welcome £200m fund to help them deal with post-Brexit red tape

The UK government has unveiled a £200m (\$258.5m) package in one-off grants for ports to install new order processing facilities for the departure from the EU. The funds are part of a wider £470m investment package announced in July. The Cabinet Office said, Port Infrastructure Fund would be “targeted at those ports that have the space to build new border infrastructure on their current sites so they are ready to handle new customs requirements under the new Border Operating Model. “The funding can be used for a range of vital port infrastructure, from warehouses and control posts to traffic management systems,” it said. The other £270m would be allocated to inland customs facilities to support ports without space in their area. However, with just three months until Brexit, time is tight and the deadline for applications for the Port Infrastructure Fund is noon on 30 October, “with successful bids announced shortly after”. Tim Morris chief executive of the UK Major Ports Group, said: “There is significant port capacity around the coast of the UK for handling freight flows to and from the EU. Today’s announcement is a welcome step in ensuring that this capacity can be maximised and UK supply chains can be more resilient.

Abu Dhabi Ports takes over MICCO Logistics

Abu Dhabi Ports has acquired MICCO Logistics as part of ongoing efforts to enhance its status as an international hub for trade and logistics. According to Abu Dhabi Ports, MICCO’s international and regional logistics solutions, its large and diversified transportation fleet, and a network of temperature-controlled warehouses, in combination with the company’s cargo handling and industrial zone capacity, put the group in a unique position to offer comprehensive supply chain services. “The acquisition of MICCO is a critical step in our emirate’s journey to establish itself as a leading hub within the global trade and supply chains,” said Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, Group CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports. “The combined advantage of both organisations means that Abu Dhabi Ports will be able to compete on the regional and global stage as a provider of holistic logistics solutions, enhancing what we offer to both existing and prospective customers, while at the same time furthering our contribution to Abu Dhabi’s non-oil GDP and the government’s diversification efforts,” Al Shamisi added.

Global shipping industry attacked by cyber-pirates

Two key players in the global shipping industry are trying to restore computer networks and assess the damage from separate cyber-attacks this week that are adding short-term complications to supply chains already straining ahead of peak season for consumer demand. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO), a UN agency that serves as the industry’s regulator, said on Thursday it suffered “a sophisticated cyber-attack against the organisation’s IT systems.” The breach affected its public website and internal systems, it said. The IMO’s web page remained down on Friday morning in London. That attack followed the disclosure earlier this week by closely held CMA CGM, the world’s fourth-biggest container liner, that its information systems were compromised. The France-based company said on Thursday that offices are “gradually being reconnected to the network, thus improving the bookings’ and documentation’s processing times.” “We suspect a data breach and are doing everything possible to assess its potential volume and nature,” the company said in an e-mailed statement. CMA CGM is among the world’s five leading container liners that account for 65% of global capacity, according to Alphaliner data.

Egypt mulls operating multipurpose terminal in Alexandria Port with Singapore

Egyptian Transport Minister Kamel al-Wazir met with the Singaporean ambassador in Cairo Dominic Goh and officials from the PSA (Port of Singapore Authority) Corporation, to discuss cooperation in managing and operating a multipurpose terminal in Alexandria Port. During the video-conference meeting Wazir explained that his ministry is working to renovate all sea ports in accordance with the Vision 2030 strategy to overhaul the nation’s maritime transport and logistics system. This terminal is a pioneering project in maritime transport, he said, being the first of its kind to be implemented by Egyptian hands and capital. All international companies working in this field have been invited to submit their bids, making this terminal one of the most important in the Middle East and the world, he added. Singapore’s ambassador expressed the interest of the PSA, one of the most important container terminal operators in the world, in working with Egypt – especially regarding the Alexandria Port terminal, which will serve as a role-model for fruitful cooperation between both nations. Egypt started constructing the multipurpose terminal in Alexandria Port at the beginning of this year, with an estimated completion set for early 2022.

India Government looks to develop Great Nicobar island using PPP model

The government’s apex planning body, Niti Aayog, is in the process of hiring consultants to prepare a master plan for the “holistic development” of Great Nicobar Island in the Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar, through the public-private partnership model. Great Nicobar, with an area of around 1,000 square kilometres, is one of the largest islands of the archipelago. The Niti Aayog’s island tourism plans have had few takers since it sought investment from private bidders three years ago. It floated a request for proposal (RfP) on September 7 to conduct a study on the technical feasibility and financial viability of the project, and has sought proposals by October 6. “India has a total of nearly 1,382 off-shore identified islands consisting of 1,093 shapes (islands) and 289 points (rocks/rocky islets). They are an integral part of our rich unexplored resources with a rich biodiversity. The potential of these islands is still largely unexplored and untapped. The Government of India intends to set a model in place for holistic development of a few identified islands while preserving and maintaining the natural ecosystem and rich biodiversity that each of them possess,” stated the RfP.

King Abdullah Port to handle 20 million containers after construction works completion

King Abdullah Port said it will have a capacity to handle 20 million containers upon completion of construction works at its facilities. The 17.4 million-square-meter port is the first to be owned, developed, and managed by the kingdom’s private sector. A total of 10 leading shipping lines operate in the port, providing their comprehensive services to exporters and importers, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Sunday. After less than four years from operation, the port was ranked as one of the fastest-growing container ports and was among the largest 100 ports worldwide. It currently handles 6.5 million containers. Located in Rabigh city, the port continued to deploy state-of-the-art technologies, including smart terminals and port management systems. It also benefits from the advanced transportation network, which is designed to carry out cargo loading and transport quickly and effectively, hence, stressing its role as a catalyst to the economic growth through the activation of commercial businesses.

‘Historic’ MoU between DP World’s Jafza and Israeli Chambers of Commerce

Following the normalising of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) DP World’s Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza) has inked a MoU with The Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce (FICC). Under the MoU the two parties will share crucial information about new developments regarding economic relations between the countries, including regulations and plans and possibilities in terms of economic planning in the two countries. The agreement was signed virtually Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, group Chairman and ceo of DP World, and Uriel Lynn, president, FICC. “The establishment of direct ties between two dynamic and advanced economies in the Middle East will undoubtedly provide impetus to economic growth, transforming the business landscape in the UAE. Israel has phenomenal innovation and technological capabilities, whereas the UAE holds a prime position in the world of global trade and is one of the greatest business hubs in the world,” said Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem of DP World. Uriel Lynn, president, FICC asserted: “The signing of the MoU with Jafza is a historic event that will go down in history as an example what can be achieved in our world if two countries are bent on creating more prosperity for their people.