



Commencement of Transworld Group and DP World strategic partnership

The Transworld Group has closed the strategic partnership with DP World and its subsidiary Unifeeder Group on 01 July after receiving final approvals from the relevant authorities. Unifeeder, through its Unifeeder ISC platform, has acquired three business units of the Transworld Group, i.e., Transworld Feeders FZCO, Avana Logistek Limited (including its subsidiary Avana Global FZCO), and Transworld Feeders Pvt. Ltd. (the containerized Indian coastal and EXIM feeder shipping operations of Shreyas Shipping and Logistics Ltd, excluding vessels and bulk operations). As a result, the combined organization will deliver more solutions through its comprehensive network, especially in the trades between India, the Arabian Gulf and South-East Asia, as well as within the wider Indian subcontinent region. Ramesh S. Ramakrishnan, the Chairman of Transworld Group and Shreyas Shipping and Logistics Limited, said: "The acquisition of three of our portfolio companies will provide DP World and Unifeeder ISC a robust platform to jointly deliver a more complete range of solutions to our customers. We are excited to be part of the DP World family and look forward to building on our continued legacy as a globally renowned independent shipping and logistics conglomerate".

Container shortage eases in China

The shortage of empty containers in China has eased as manufacturers have increased production capacity, vice minister of transport Zhao Chongjiu said Thursday. The monthly production capacity of Chinese container manufacturers has now reached 500,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), Zhao said at a press conference. China's steady economic recovery has led to rapid increase in demand for containers in foreign trade transportation, Zhao said, adding that lower operating efficiency at overseas ports due to the epidemic makes it difficult to ship empty containers back to China. In addition, the Suez Canal blockage and other factors have affected transportation capacity of major shipping routes and led to global rise in freight rates, said Zhao. The Ministry of Transport will work with relevant parties to guide international liner companies to continuously increase shipping capacity on routes from the Chinese mainland, improve container turnover efficiency, and make sure international logistics supply chain is stable and smooth, Zhao added. Last year, cargo throughput and container throughput at China's ports reached 14.55 billion tonnes and 260 million TEUs, respectively, ranking first in the world on both counts.

Seaports join forces to cut emissions from berthed vessels

Five seaports in North-West Europe have agreed to work together to make shipping cleaner. The aim is to provide large container ships in the ports of Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg, Bremen and Haropa (including Le Havre) with shore-based power by 2028 so that the on-board generators are not used when the vessels are berthed. Vessels will then be connected to the mains power grid through a cable. That is good for air quality and for the climate as it will mean lower nitrogen and CO2 emissions. Rotterdam already has shore-based power connections for inland vessels at all public berths in the port area. StenaLine in Hoek van Holland and Heerema's berth in the Calandkanaal are also equipped with shore power. Last year, we launched an ambitious programme to complete around eight to ten shore-based power projects by 2025. Now, this collaborative international effort is also underway. This partnership is crucial to the success of shore-based power. We are going to harmonise how our ports tackle shore-based power. It should lead to standardisation, reduce costs and speed up the application of shore-based power while maintaining a level playing field between ports.

China's Yantian Container Terminal resuming normal operations

After a month of disruptions due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in southern China, the operators of the Yantian International Container Terminal announced that they are resuming normal terminal operations. The major shipping lines and industry analysts however continue to warn of significant delays and backlogs that could continue to impact global supply chains for weeks or months to come. Hutchison Ports Yantian reported that after proactive measures to control COVID-19 in the port area, the operational capacity of the terminals has steadily recovered. With the full support of relevant government departments, it was agreed that the Yantian terminal will resume full operations as of midnight local time on June 24. Maersk at the beginning of the week had warned shippers that capacity at the eastern terminal remained at just over 50 percent and that the Yantian yard had reduced yard density to 60 percent of capacity. Export containers had been paused for six days contributing to what Maersk called the most significant bottleneck in container shipping. Hutchinson now reports that all berths, including in the western area of the port, "will essentially resume normal operations."

Gujarat Chief Minister approves development of Nargol Port

The development of greenfield port at Nargol in South Gujarat has been approved by Shri Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat through Public Private Partnership (PPP) with an extended BOOT period of 50 years. In deference to the fact that port projects have huge gestation lags, Government of Gujarat is setting a precedent by keeping the initial BOOT period for Nargol port development at 50 years, rather than the 30 years usually offered for greenfield port development in Gujarat. This presents the potential port developer with an assurance for greater Return on Investment. In the present economic scenario, this is also a shot in the arm for the developer. The proposal also offers the interested developers the flexibility to quote discounted waterfront royalty rate in addition to the prevailing system of quoting premium on the base rates. The Nargol port developer would be selected through a global bidding process that would be transparent, robust and flexible. The major port of JNPT in Mumbai is expected to exhaust its present container handling capacity of 10 million by 2025.

DP World opens new container terminal at Somaliland port

DP World, a leading provider of integrated logistics solutions, and Somaliland inaugurated the new container terminal at Berbera Port, following completion of the first phase of the port expansion project in line with its development plan for the Horn of Africa region. The new terminal was officially opened by Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi and DP World Group Chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem at a special event attended by over 200 guests from Ethiopia, led by Ahmed Shide, Minister of Finance and Dagmawit Moges, Minister of Transport. The event also included a symbolic ground-breaking for the new Berbera Economic Zone, the first phase of which is under construction. The new container terminal with a deep draft of 17m, a quay of 400m and three ship to shore (STS) gantry cranes, can handle the largest container vessels in operation today, and increases the port's container capacity from current 150,000 Twenty Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) to 500,000 TEUs annually. The terminal also includes a modern container yard with eight rubber tyred gantry cranes (RTGs). A new port One Stop Service Centre is also currently being built and will be ready in quarter three this year, it stated.

Mercantile Ports & Logistics secures long-term contract in India

Mercantile Ports & Logistics Ltd. said Wednesday that it has secured a new multi-year port contract in India with revenue of around seven million pounds (\$9.8 million) over the next three-year period. The U.K. port-and-logistics company—which is developing and operating its facility in Navi Mumbai, India—said it has signed a contract with Esquire Shipping and Trading Pvt. Ltd. and Sai Om Petro Specialties Ltd. for an initial period of 10 years which can be expanded to a further five. The company said that under the contract both companies will undertake stevedoring and cargo handling services for coal and other bulk cargoes at its port and logistics facility. "As the Covid-19 pandemic slowly but surely abates, we are seeing significant interest from potential customers wanting to utilize our facilities as they rethink logistics and supply chain issues in a post-Covid-19 world," Chief Executive Jay Mehta said.



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