



## AD Ports becomes major force in global feeder shipping

The group paid \$800m for the majority stake, implying an enterprise value of \$1bn, with the acquisition being fully funded through a new acquisition loan, it said. Subject to regulatory approvals, the transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2023. GFS's existing management will remain in place with the founders retaining a 20% stake in the company. GFS has built one of the largest container feeder fleets globally, today ranking No.24 on the Alphaliner 100 list in its own right, with an average vessel capacity of 2,788 teu. Revenue in the last 12 months was \$1.09bn, with net profits of \$481m, for a profit margin of 44%. Its fleet consists of 26 owned and operated vessels with a total capacity of 72,500 teu, covering the Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia, and connecting the UAE to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, China, South Korea, Vietnam, and other countries. "Our acquisition of a majority stake in GFS, which is the largest external investment in our company's history, will deliver a step-change in the range of services we can offer and significantly enhance our global connectivity," said Falah Mohammed Al Ahabbi, chairman, AD Ports Group.

## DP World partners with Shanghai's Lin-Gang Special Area

The MoU was signed with Shanghai Lin-Gang Economic Development Group (Lin-Gang Group) at a virtual ceremony by Lin-Gang Party Secretary and Member of Shanghai Standing Committee, Jinshan Chen, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World and Abdulla Bin Damithan, CEO & Managing Director, DP World UAE & Jafza. There are currently more than 40,000 corporations registered in Lin-Gang Special Area. Its strategic position in southeast Shanghai makes it an important node for Shanghai coastal thoroughfare. Chinese traders and freight forwarders who become Members of the WLP will have access to the different benefits offered by WLP Partners, who include DP World, Thai Airways and Emirates SkyCargo. Example benefits include fast-tracking of cargo, reducing customs clearance times, and removing administrative costs. "Extending the WLP into China by partnering with Lin-Gang special area is a huge development and a testament to the strength of the programme," said Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, and Chairman of the Dubai Ports, Customs and Freezone Corporation (PCFC), which owns and runs the WLP.

## Construction of Adani-backed Colombo port terminal begins

The construction of the Adani Group-led terminal project at the strategically located Colombo Port officially commenced on Wednesday, a year after the Indian company sealed the deal with Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) and conglomerate John Keells Holdings. Said to be the largest foreign investment — nearly \$700 million — in the island nation's ports sector, the West Container Terminal (WCT) project was offered as a "compromise" to India after Colombo unilaterally pulled out of an earlier trilateral agreement with India and Japan to jointly develop the East Container Terminal (ECT). The Adani Group came in as the Indian government's "nominee", Sri Lankan authorities said, amid questions over the absence of a competitive bidding process. Subsequently, Sri Lanka roped in China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) to construct the second phase of the ECT. Sri Lankan officials said the company's role would be "limited to civil works". The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024, and the second phase, by mid-2026, authorities said. The project will have a cargo capacity of 300 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEUs), officials said.

## Maersk set to launch Bangladesh-India inland services after successful trials

Pilot runs on four inland waterways, intended to establish the feasibility of using Bangladesh ports as a transit point to and from landlocked East India have been successful. Maersk has no definite timeline for the start of services, but said the company was in discussions with potential customers. Kolkata Port (SMPK) led the project, under the purview of a "government-to-government inland water transit and trade protocol", which included partnership arrangements with Maersk Line (India) and Gurugram-based CJ Darcl Logistics. Of the four trials, the Mongla-to-Tamabil and Mongla-to-Bibirbazar legs were made with Maersk, and the other two, Chittagong-to-Sheola and Tamabil-to-Chittagong, were carried out with CJ Darcl, the port authority said. Officials at SMPK said backhaul trials also yielded positive results, allaying industry concerns about the long-term sustainability of this project. "The use of Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh for the movement of goods to and from the north-eastern region is a significant step in India's Act East policy," the port said. "Developments in connectivity are imperative for transforming India's eastern and north-eastern states."

## India extends export incentives for rupee-denominated trade transactions

Indian policymakers have reworked foreign trade policy guidelines and related banking regulations to allow export incentives for international shipments settled in rupees, instead of traditional US dollar payments. The move builds on a notification issued by the country's banking regulator Reserve Bank of India in July this year. "The government of India has made suitable amendments in the foreign trade policy and handbook of procedures to allow for international trade settlement in Indian rupees (INR) i.e., invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/imports in Indian rupees," an official statement issued by the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry noted. The ministry also said: "Accordingly, benefits/fulfilment of export obligations under the foreign trade policy have been extended for realisations in Indian rupees as per the RBI [Reserve Bank of India] guidelines." "The government now allows international trade settlement in rupees for export promotion schemes," India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in a statement. "Exporters can now avail benefits for trade transactions in our currency."

## Singapore, LA and Long Beach ports plan Transpacific green corridor

The Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) Port of Los Angeles, Port of Long Beach and C40 Cities have begun discussions on the corridor that will focus on using low and zero carbon fuels and digital tools to support this. The collaboration supports the Green Shipping Challenge, convened by the US and Norway, and launched at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, this week. Three ports plan to accelerate the deployment of low and zero carbon fuels, develop bunkering support and infrastructure, and digital tools for the use of green fuels one of the world's busiest shipping corridors. Teo Eng Dih, Chief Executive of MPA, said, "Through this corridor, we hope to support the decarbonisation of global supply chains, complementing efforts undertaken by the industry and the International Maritime Organization to drive the decarbonisation and digital transition for international shipping."



## DP World Launches Newest Technology Innovation Centre In India

Over 240 people will be based at the new office, about 30-km southwest of India's capital New Delhi. It will house development teams for DP World's latest cutting-edge trade and logistics solutions to revolutionise how trade flows through every link of the global supply chain, creating stability, security, and profitability for cargo owners. The opening follows the successful launch of new technology centres in Hyderabad and Bangalore earlier this year, capitalising on the growth opportunities and significant technology-focused talent pool available in India. The country's digital economy is set to reach \$1 trillion by 2025, and its pool of technology professionals is growing rapidly. DP World will tap into this resource, nurturing the brightest minds in India by allowing them to co-create solutions from the ground up and owning the software development process from the beginning to the end. The engineers will grow while working on exciting technologies — such as Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to automate trade flows.