



Work start on largest warehouse in DP World London Gateway for DHL

DP World London Gateway said work had begun prepare the plot for the 482,000 sq ft warehouse, with construction expected to start in early 2021. The facility is expected to be operational in early 2023 and will be leased by DHL Supply Chain. The fully automated, 42 m high bay warehouse will feature 36 m of clear internal eaves height. Jeremy Cracknell, senior property development manager at DP World London Gateway said: "Our Logistics Park is the perfect choice for businesses like DHL looking to save time and instil a level of resilience within their supply chains. This latest letting brings the total number of occupiers on the Logistics Park to ten, with DHL joining UPS, Dixons Carphone, MADE.COM, Lidl, Ceva Logistics, P&O Ferrymasters, Halo Handling (SH Pratt), Ziegler UK and Compagnie Fruitiere."

Hambantota International Port helps ease congestion at Colombo Port

Two transshipment feeder vessels that were idling at the Colombo Port anchorage for approximately 7 days due to increased congestion, called at the Hambantota International Port (HIP) last week. HIP came to their rescue, by providing berths for both vessels simultaneously to facilitate a seamless transfer of containers carrying military cargo. Given the nature of the cargo, the transfer of the containers from MV 'MCP Graz' to MV 'Pacific Dawn' was carried out under full compliance of international maritime standard safety regulations. The military cargo containers exported by a South African company were transhipped via HIP, to Pakistan and Abu Dhabi. The discharging vessel 'MCP Graz' was bound to Tuticorin with a shipment of cashew from South Africa. Tissa Wickramasinghe, COO of the Hambantota International Port Group said that this was the first time the port handled a direct ship to ship transfer of transshipment containers. "Currently the only constraint we have in handling container vessels on a regular basis, is the limited number of ship to shore cranes, and their outreach. But we are happy with the outcome of this transshipment operation, as our crane operators showed their professional competence and were up to the task."

U.S. exporters coming up empty in scramble for outbound containers

A surge in Asian imports bound for U.S. retailers stocking up for the holidays is leading to an acute shortage of shipping capacity for U.S. exporters, with agricultural producers now struggling to find the containers they need to send their products to overseas buyers. Container shipping companies seeking to keep pace with the strong demand for goods from China are rushing to unpack and return to Asia the containers, industry officials say. That leaves fewer boxes available for American exporters to stuff with soybeans, lumber, cotton and other products. "Right now we are grappling with a true emergency—carriers refusing bookings for trans-Pacific agricultural exports and canceling those already booked," said Peter Friedmann, executive director at the Agriculture Transportation Coalition, a trade body representing U.S. farmers. The shortage is in part the result of the steep imbalance in the value of the goods moving across the Pacific. U.S. imports from China, for instance, include big volumes of electronics, apparel, toys and other manufactured goods. U.S. exports lean heavily toward bulky agricultural goods, along with food and beverages, which have a lower market value.

APM Terminal Pipavav cuts terminal handling charges for empty containers

APM Terminals Pipavav on Wednesday said it has cut terminal handling charges for empty containers by a quarter to help the exporters, facing container shortage for overseas shipments. The charges have been revised downward from November 16 and will remain in effect till December 31, 2020, the private port operator said in a release. The move is aimed at supporting exporters in getting easy access to empty containers and reducing the waiting period, the port operator said. APM Terminals Pipavav is taking efforts to facilitate trade and help in reviving the economy amid a considerable imbalance in trade due to severe shortage of containers for exporters, it added. "The Port has reduced the terminal handling charges for empty containers by 25 per cent to enable the exporters who are adversely impacted by the shortage of empty containers due to significant fall in imports," APM Pipavav Terminals said. The reduction for handling charges on the tariff is effective for vessels sailing from November 16 to December 31, it added. India's exports during April-October period of the current financial year fell 19 per cent to USD 150.14 billion, while imports declined 36.3 per cent to USD 182.29 billion, the release said.

Cosco to invest more than US\$100 million in the Piraeus Port

Cosco Shipping has announced new investments in the port of Piraeus aiming to expand the container capacity of the Greek port and upgrade the ship repair zone. The Chinese shipping giant will invest €70 million (US\$83 million) for the modernisation and the capacity expansion of the three container terminals at the Piraeus Port Authority (OLP), according to the Greek online newspaper, e-kathimerini. Additionally, Cosco will invest another €20 million (US\$24 million) in the ship repair zone of the port. These moves are expected to increase the annual handling capacity of the Piraeus port by 800,000 boxes by the end of 2021. The final handling capacity of the port will be 8 million containers per year. These investments come after the deal that was signed by COSCO Shipping Ports and Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries (ZPMC) in May for three ship to shore (STS) cranes for PCT (Piraeus Container Terminal SA) terminal of the Greek port. In the meantime, the construction of the fourth container terminal is expected to skyrocket Piraeus' handling capacity to over 10 million containers annually.

Abu Dhabi Ports teams with DNV GL on digital transformation

Under the agreement, both companies agree to work together to advance Abu Dhabi's maritime development through the deployment of leading-edge innovations including autonomous technology, AI, machine learning, electrification, as well as logistics and supply-chain authentication based on blockchain. The intention is also to encourage Emirati graduates to pursue a career in the domestic maritime industry by offering R&D opportunities in the field of decarbonisation, such as alternative fuels and renewable energy usage. "We are committed to instilling a new generation of Emiratis with a strong ethos that values a sustainable model for economic growth, and embraces decarbonisation and digitalisation across the entire maritime and logistics supply chain," commented Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, ADP group ceo. DNV GL ceo and group president Remi Eriksen called it "an honour" to support Abu Dhabi's digitalisation and decarbonisation efforts in the maritime sector, and said his group looked forward to working with the leadership of ADP and "being a partner in this transformational journey."

RSGT installs latest cranes for \$35m at Jeddah Port

Red Sea Gateway Terminal (RSGT) has taken delivery of two state-of-the-art remote-controlled Ship-to-Shore (STS) cranes, and 10 hybrid-Rubber-Tyred Gantry (RTG) cranes at an investment of \$35 million, as part of the latest steps in the planned expansion of Jeddah Port's premier facility to double annual container throughput capacity to 5.2 million TEUs by 2023. "This is another key milestone in RSGT's commitment and continuous investment to enhance our world-class terminal services. As well as increase the efficiency and capability to meet the different levels of customer needs for next-generation vessels," stated RSGT CEO Jens Floe. The new 65-tonne twin-lift capacity STS cranes can accommodate the latest generation of Ultra-Large Container Ships (ULCS) of 24,000+ TEU capacity, with a 70-m reach and a 52-m height. RSGT is the only terminal at the Port of Jeddah capable of accommodating the ULCS class's mega-ships. Manufactured by ZPMC in Shanghai, China, the new semi-automated STS cranes feature advanced technology such as remote control, Optical Character Scanning capability; chassis alignment, and automatic landing systems; vessel profiling, gantry, and trolley positioning systems; and intelligent status condition monitoring systems.