



DP World UK to open new warehouse in London Gateway

DP World has announced that it will expedite the delivery of a green warehouse of 11,055.4 m2 at London Gateway's port-centric logistics park to meet the unprecedented demand for space at the freeport site. The global port operator plans to complete its second speculative warehouse facility in less than a year at London Gateway, which is expected to be ready for operations at the end of the third quarter of the year. The new facility will be one of the most sustainable warehouses built so far, with a BREEAM 'Outstanding' classification, delivering a 30% carbon reduction during construction and a 40% reduction in operational carbon emissions, according to DP World. "We have seen the best year for new business in a decade as demand for premium warehousing space in the South East of England has reached unprecedented levels," said Oliver Treneman, park development director at DP World in the United Kingdom. "We are very confident that LG119 (Plot 4040), the facility we are announcing, will be of interest to some of the dozens of retail, manufacturing and logistics businesses looking to expand or establish new operations who have contacted us to take advantage of the unique opportunities on offer since our freeport status was announced," added Treneman.

India mulls ships to run only on green energy

In line with the global move to lower carbon emission from sea transportation, India is exploring a plan to run ships 100% on green energy like solar, sea water, wind, and hydrogen. The Indian ministries of ports, shipping and waterways and new and renewable energy are working jointly on the issue, ahead of announcing budgetary incentives support to set up India-owned shipping lines of global repute. The plan, once implemented, will help lower carbon emissions and also cut vessel operating costs in a country that is almost totally dependent on imports for fuel oil and over half of its gas requirements. India's annual export is worth approximately US\$400 billion while its import is nearly US\$500 billion of which 95% is being carried out by sea and waterways. The government plans to promote setting up of own shipping lines of international standard to carry its billions dollar external trade to save hard-earned foreign currency from draining out abroad. Annually, India pays nearly US\$65 billion to carry its export-import goods which are feared to reach US\$100 billion shortly. An announcement of an incentives package for establishing own shipping lines is expected to be made in the fiscal budget for 2022-23.

First boxship directly from China to UK arrives at the Port of Tyne

The Port of Tyne has welcomed the first container ship to arrive directly from China in the United Kingdom, representing a turning point for South Shields as a potential destination for logistics providers seeking an alternative to congested southern ports. The vessel that has been efficiently unloaded, was utilised by a number of retail companies to ensure a wide range of consumer goods would arrive in time for peak trading periods. "This is the first time we have handled containers coming directly from China and it demonstrates that the port can have a significant impact on easing current challenges of capacity being experienced within the UK shipping and logistics sector," commented Richard Newton, commercial director for logistics at the Port of Tyne. "It also means people are potentially able to get the goods they want more quickly," added Newton. Meanwhile, as the UK continues to struggle with inbound supply chain issues, the Port of Tyne has expanded its range of intermodal services, with the most recent, offered by GB Railfreight (GBRF), connecting South Shields with strategic rail hubs in Yorkshire and the Midlands.

Malaysia's seaports end 2021 on a high, hit new milestones

2021 ended on a high note for Malaysia's seaports with several new milestones achieved. The Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) in Johor became the first container terminal in Malaysia to surpass 11 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) throughput volume in a year, further strengthening its position as one of the top 15 ports globally. Port Klang's Westport and Northport also made history when they achieved 13.64 million TEU, surpassing 2019's record of 13.58 million TEU. PTP's feat was recorded on Dec 25 while Port Klang's was on Dec 28, during the loading process. Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong revealed the final volume that PTP subsequently registered 11.2 million TEU at end of 2021, representing an increase of 14% growth in its yearly volume as compared to 9.8 million TEU in 2020. He said Port Klang managed to hit a total volume of 13.74 million TEU all in for 2021. "This was despite the many challenges of Covid-19 as well as the spillover effects of container shortages, port congestions and most recently, adverse weather conditions. "We are proud of the historic achievements and the ministry will continue to support our ports in gearing up to meet new challenges and achieve even more in 2022," he said.

CMA CGM takes over one of the largest US port terminals

French shipping giant CMA CGM has completed the acquisition of 90% of Fenix Marine Services (FMS) terminal, one of the largest terminals in the Port of Los Angeles that provides container handling services to shipping lines. With the 10% stake already owned by the company, CMA CGM has become the sole owner of the FMS facility. To remind, the shipping giant agreed to buy a majority stake in FMS for \$2.3 billion from EQT Infrastructure III fund in November 2021. This acquisition, funded from CMA CGM's own resources, is bolstering the company's position as a global port terminal operator. It is also in line with the Group's strategy of developing its terminal business while supporting the growth and efficiency of its shipping lines. FMS is the third-largest terminal in the Los Angeles/Long Beach port area in terms of capacity (around 2.5 million TEU) and one of the largest in North America. The terminal also benefits from a long-term concession agreement (through 2043). After taking over the operations of this strategic industrial facility, CMA CGM plans to accelerate FMS' development with significant investments which include the extension of the container yard, expansion of the terminal's rail capacity and the construction of a new berth.

Port of Virginia breaks annual box volumes record

The Port of Virginia has announced its most productive year on record having processed more than 3.5 million TEU in 2021. Stephen A. Edwards, CEO and executive director of the Virginia Port Authority, said, "We kept our focus and delivered a best-in-class performance with solid efficiency, customer service and a record amount of cargo." The port closed its year having processed more than 325,000 TEU in December, making it the most productive month in history, surpassing the previous record in October with 318,000 TEU. Comparatively, last December's volumes were ahead of 2020 December's ones by 25%, which translates to more than 65,000 TEU. "We own and operate the terminals and the Hampton Roads Chassis Pool and this allows for quick decision making that ensures we are doing the right thing for the customer within the capabilities of the operation," noted Edward, adding that "The users of the port of Virginia have come to understand the Virginia Model and the role it plays in our success cannot be overstated."



APM Terminals Pipavav launches new weekly India – Gulf service

APM Terminals Pipavav has secured a new weekly service NMG (Nhava Sheva-Mundra-Gulf) connecting India to the Gulf region. The 2,751 TEU boxship, Tss Shams, was deployed on the first service on 5 January, departing from Jebel Ali Port to call the ports of Sohar, Nhava Sheva, Pipavav and Mundra. NMG service will cater to the exporter/importers of Indian states Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Delhi, strengthening and boosting connectivity of the Indian hinterland to the gulf markets, according to APM Terminals, which noted the service is expected to ease the supply network between India and the Middle East. "We believe that this service will deepen our presence in Gulf markets and thereby help our customers to widen their reach into the global markets," commented APM Terminals Pipavav managing director, Jakob Friis Sorensen.