

SHIP-TO-SHIP TRANSFERS

Forth Ports PLC has announced today, Friday, 1st February, it is not proceeding with an application for ship-to-ship (STS) oil transfers in the Firth of Forth.

Charles Hammond, Group Chief Executive of Forth Ports PLC, said: "In our role as the harbour authority for the Firth of Forth we have a statutory duty to assess all applications to undertake commercial activity on the river.

"We believe our Appropriate Assessment exercise is one of the most thorough and comprehensive ever carried out.

"We have used both internal expertise and independent expert advisors, taking into account all safety and environmental considerations and have undertaken one of the most extensive consultation exercises ever carried out in the UK."

As part of its commitment to transparency and collaboration, Forth Ports has posted the findings of the Appropriate Assessment and other relevant studies on its website and is inviting comments and observations from interested parties.

Charles Hammond said: "This assessment clearly demonstrates that, taking into account the extremely high safety stipulations which would be placed on any vessels and the extensive support operations, STS *is* feasible in the Firth of Forth and could be undertaken without any adverse impact on the integrity of the environment, a paramount factor in any such exercise.

"However, given the uncertainty surrounding the scope of the proposed project, we have decided that this application is not in the best interests of the company and its shareholders.

"We are committed to participating fully in the forthcoming consultation exercise on STS which will be launched shortly by the UK government and hope our research will prove useful in helping to formulate any new national policies."

Ends

Notes to editors

About Forth Ports

Forth Ports PLC is the only independent UK ports operator. The company provides high levels of handling and logistic-related services to customers who are looking for solutions to move goods cost effectively and efficiently.

Seven ports are operated by Forth Ports including Dundee on the River Tay, Tilbury on the River Thames and five ports on the Firth of Forth – Leith, Grangemouth, Methil, Burntisland and Rosyth.

Forth Properties Limited, the property division of Forth Ports, is involved in the long-term development and regeneration of waterfront sites within its ownership to promote a series of integrated communities. Recently the property division submitted the largest planning application in Edinburgh's history for the regeneration of Leith Docks. The development will accommodate nearly 16,000 new homes, a quarter of which will be affordable housing, and is expected to create almost 12,000 jobs in Edinburgh.

For further information please contact:

Alex Barr
The BIG Partnership
Tel: + 44 (0) 7962 135 467/ + 44 (0) 141 333 9585
E-mail: alex.barr@bigpartnership.co.uk

Alan Garland
The BIG Partnership
Tel: + 44 (0) 773 9299360/ + 44 (0) 1592 643200
E-mail: alan.garland@bigpartnership.co.uk