

Grangemouth invests in new fleet for container terminal

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GRANGEMOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAMME CONTINUES WITH NEW FORKLIFT FLEET FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL

Scotland's largest port, Grangemouth got the keys for its new fleet of forklift trucks as part of the multi-million pound investment programme at Scotland's Container Terminal.

The new fleet of 15 Hyster forklift trucks, provided by Briggs Equipment, has replaced the port's existing machines. All the new trucks benefit from the latest Euro 6 diesel engines and will help the port to meet its target of reducing CO2 emissions generated through its operations.

The arrival of the new machines follows the announcement in June of a major investment programme at the port to increase its capacity for storing both conventional containers and reefers (refrigerated containers) and the commissioning of a feasibility study into deepening the shipping channel within the port to handle larger vessels.

The resurfacing at the terminal was also completed this month (November) and now boasts heavy duty concrete pavement with additional storage lanes for laden containers in addition to improved equipment access to landside and shipside operations. The investment is designed to increase the busy container terminal's total storage yard capacity to 12,000 TEUs (the industry standard container size of twenty foot equivalent units) – a 50% increase since 2005.

Port Manager, Derek Knox, said: *“This is another major investment for The Port of Grangemouth which will further secure our position as Scotland’s largest container terminal. More than **£6 billion** worth of goods passes through Grangemouth each year including steel plate, timber, paper and equipment for the oil and gas industry. We also handle some of the country’s most valuable exports, such as fine foods and drinks, so flexibility and durability was a key priority when specifying the new trucks for our business.”*

As well as delivering fuel cost savings and environmental improvements, the Hyster range also provides the most effective solution for meeting one of the port's biggest challenges, the wide variety of goods passing through. The new fleet consists of 12 tonne, 7 tonne, 5 tonne and 3 tonne counterbalance trucks.

Ends

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About Forth Ports Limited

- Forth Ports Limited owns and operates eight commercial ports in the UK – Tilbury on the Thames, Dundee on the Firth of Tay and six on the Firth of Forth – Leith, Grangemouth, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.

- The Port of Grangemouth operates Scotland's largest container port and handles in excess of 155,000 containers per annum. Regular container services are now available from Grangemouth with frequent daily sailings to Rotterdam, Antwerp, Felixstowe and Hamburg. Most of the major lines utilise these feeder services to link with mother container vessels plying between the world's major ports. Short sea box traffic is also carried on the weekly services for onward transportation to destinations in Europe and Scandinavia. An important base cargo for the container services is the carrying of scotch whisky, but significant business includes chemicals in bulk containers, electronic goods, machinery and manufactured goods.
- Within and around the Firths of Forth and Tay, Forth Ports manages and operates an area of 280 square miles of navigable waters, including two specialised marine terminals for oil and gas export and provides other marine services, such as towage and conservancy.