

Grangemouth orders three new straddle carriers for terminal

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PRESS RELEASE

GRANGEMOUTH INVESTMENT CONTINUES WITH THE PURCHASE OF STRADDLE CARRIERS FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL

Scotland's container terminal, within the Port of Grangemouth, continues its multi-million pound investment programme with the announcement today (10 May) of the purchase of three new straddle carriers.

The new ESC340 straddle carriers represent another significant investment for the port and will be delivered at the end of the year by port infrastructure equipment specialists Kalmar. The purchase of the new straddle carriers - which are specialist machines for manoeuvring containers within the port - will increase the fleet at the container terminal to 16 and represents the first stage of a phased fleet modernisation initiative which will in time replace the entire fleet.

The purchase of the new straddles is part of a major investment programme at Scotland's container terminal to increase its capacity for storing both conventional containers and reefers (refrigerated containers). In December 2015, the port announced the delivery of a new fleet of 15 Hyster forklift trucks which have replaced the port's existing machines. Resurfacing work at the terminal has been completed with the creation of heavy duty concrete paving with additional storage lanes for laden containers in addition to improved equipment access to landside and shipside operations. The investment has increased 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: *“Our order of the new straddle carriers today, further secures our position as Scotland's largest container terminal. In Grangemouth we handle some of the country's most valuable exports, such as fine foods and drinks, so flexibility and durability of our equipment is essential and we look forward to the delivery of the new Kalmar straddles later this year.”*

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. Grangemouth container terminal reached its 50th anniversary on 7 May 2016.

Ends

10 May 2016

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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.

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