

Port of Grangemouth enjoys four year high in container volumes

Posted: 2016-12-02



PRESS RELEASE

Potato (tattie) harvest supports growth story at the Port of Grangemouth

The Port of Grangemouth, Scotland's largest container facility has enjoyed one of its busiest seasons, with over 50,000 TEUs (Twenty Foot Equivalent Units) being handled at the port in the last two months. This four-year high is the result of a buoyant fresh food export season utilising the port's refrigerated container handling capability which has set Grangemouth on track for record breaking volumes this quarter.

In October and November, the port recorded a 30% increase on refrigerated container volumes (known as 'reefers' *) year on year and during November alone, the port handled a record 1400 reefers. The bulk of these reefers are being used for the export of Scottish potato seed from farms across Scotland to far flung places around the world including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Morocco. This year sees the potato seed travelling to new countries from Grangemouth, via Rotterdam, to Thailand, China and Namibia.

In 2015 the port's owner, Forth Ports, invested in extending the electricity supply infrastructure for specialist reefer power supply points due to an increase in customer demand, principally from Scotland's fresh food exporters, created by a significantly longer season for the shipping of such produce as potatoes, cheese, fish and seafood to markets across the world.

Derek Knox, Grangemouth's Port Manager, said: "*Scotland has a strong reputation right across the world for the quality of our fresh produce and this has resulted in increasing demand for reefer capacity at our port in Grangemouth. This year, we have seen potato seed in particular enjoying a bumper season with Scottish farmers exporting their crop globally resulting in our port's busiest quarter ever.*"

Between October and November we are 30% up on reefer volumes year on year. This is good for the Scottish economy, good for the farming sector and good for business and we're committed to supporting this growth through our investments in infrastructure and equipment at the Port of Grangemouth."

* Refrigerated containers – known as “reefers” – require power immediately upon arrival at the port to keep their contents fresh until either being loaded onto vessels for export or collection by haulage firms for delivery across Scotland.

2 December 2016

- ends -

For further information/images, please contact:

Debbie Johnston - 0141 548 5191 / debbie@sprengthomson.com

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. Grangemouth is also Scotland's largest reefer port principally from Scotland's fresh food

exporters, created by a significantly longer season for the shipping of such produce as potatoes, cheese, fish and seafood to markets across the world.

- 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.

www.forthports.co.uk @forthports