



Important Shipping news

DP World US asset sale complete

Global marine terminal operator DP World completed the sale of its wholly-owned subsidiary P&O Ports North America (POPNA) to AIG Global Investment Group. This sale of 100% ownership of POPNA fulfills the commitment made by DP World last year to sell its US assets to an American buyer. Under AIG's ownership, the business will be renamed within "Ports America".

DP World and Kaplan equity led Consortium To engage in joint ventures in Australia

Global marine terminal operator DP World and a Consortium led by Kaplan Equity Limited (KEL), a private equity fund managed by Kaplan Funds Management, are pleased to announce their intention to engage in a joint logistics alliance in Australia. The alliance, chaired by former Patrick Corporation Managing Director Chris Corrigan, will assist in the expansion of DP World's logistics activities in Australia - P&O Automotive and General Stevedoring (A&GS) and P&O Trans Australia (POTA).

The alliance will enable DP World to focus on the continued development of its core Container Terminals business in Australia with the Consortium applying its proven management expertise and strong financial backing to further develop the automotive and general stevedoring business and the landside logistics business. The new joint venture businesses will retain the P&O brand by continuing to trade as P&O Automotive and General Stevedoring and P&O Trans Australia.

Indian shipowners call for sweeping tax reforms

INDIA'S National Shipowners Association has put forward a package of proposals to revamp the nation's tax structure for the

sector in a bid to generate big investment and improve competitiveness.

The association is seeking a five per cent reduction in customs duty on the import of vessels, and for shipowners to be exempt from paying customs duty on the import of repair materials, to lower the cost of repair work and boost the import of high-quality repair equipment.

The body is also calling for the scrapping of the tax on input services, as well as amendments to the tax legislation, according

to a report from IRIS Business Services (India).

On the direct tax front, the association expects an amendment/clarification to cover book profit on the sale of qualifying ships under section 115VI (1)(i) by incorporating surplus on sale of qualifying ships. Moreover, it has appealed the removal of the tax on profit on the sale of ships, the statement said.

Finally, it is demanding that shipping companies be exempt from the withholding tax on charter hire payments to foreign shipowners.

Never ending pursuit of customer delight

A state-of-the-art Customer Support System (CSS) has been launched in IGT in our continuous pursuit of customer delight. This system enables IGT's customers from around the globe to register their issues, concerns, enquiries or feedback on a 24 x 7 basis through the user-friendly electronic interface.

Customers can register their issues through letters, faxes, emails, telephone calls or web forms and then track the status of the resolution of their issues through the web interface (www.igtpl.com)

There is an escalation mechanism built in the system i.e. if the issue is pending for resolution, it will be escalated initially to official concerned, then HOD concerned and finally to GM after a pre-defined time. Once the issue is resolved, a letter is sent to the customer concerned through e-mail from an IGT official.

The top management of the IGT can also oversee the processing and management of the issues as the various internal groups interact through the advanced Workflow Management which is backbone of the system. "

This web-based application incorporates various innovative functionalities and attributes including modularity, flexibility and portability.

-P. Balakrishnan

Milestones

Maximum moves/TEUs in a Day	:	1276/1867 on 17 th Mar 07
Maximum imports in a month	:	9163 in Aug 06
Maximum export in a month	:	8065 in Jul 06
Maximum through put in a month	:	17085 moves & 22488 TEUs in Aug 06
Maximum moves in a shift	:	564 on 10 th Jan 07, III rd shift
Maximum through put of trucks in a day	:	1674 on 13 th Feb 07
Maximum productivity of MHC in a shift	:	341 on 19 th Feb 07, 1 st shift
Maximum TEUs in a vessel	:	1550 teus
Largest vessel called at	:	CMA CGM VILLE DE MARS Berthed on 15 th Sep 06