



## **PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

### **Momentum builds for Liverpool2 with new Irish Sea Hub service**

Peel Ports' Liverpool2 project has hit another key milestone with BG Freight announcing a new schedule increasing the frequency of its services in the Irish Sea routes.

The changes, in response to the creation of Liverpool2 and customer demand, involve the deployment of an additional ship, allowing customers in Scotland and Ireland to tap into the benefits of deep sea vessels calling at Liverpool2 through an integrated approach to short sea shipping and cargo handling.

Liverpool2, which opens later this year will be UK's most centrally-located deep water container terminal, it will double the capacity of the Port of Liverpool and allow it to handle some of the largest container ships in the world.

The new service, which began last week, will allow end users and shippers to benefit from the economies of scale provided by Liverpool2. Using a one-stop-shop approach, deep-sea lifts from Liverpool2, feeder connections/shipping and port stevedoring are all handled by Peel Ports Group across Irish Sea Hub locations, simplifying the process of getting goods to and from key markets.

The Manchester Ship Canal service has been extended to three sailings per week. In addition there is a fixed weekly return call from Liverpool to Ellesmere Port. The frequency between Liverpool and Dublin has also been upgraded to twice weekly, as will Liverpool to Belfast and a new route from Dublin to Greenock, all offering winter-proof return connections and increased reliability on connections to other European ports.

Koert Luitwieler, CEO BG Freight Line, said: "We see this new schedule as a huge step forward which will enable us to offer very reliable shipping solutions for our customers. The increased frequency on the canal and the introduction of Ellesmere Port will drive more and more containers from road/rail to environmentally friendly waterways. All this will trigger a smooth and capable hinterland logistical chain ready to support L2 once volume begins to flow through the port."

The schedule of M.V. Phoenix II, which has a capacity of 658TEUs, is:

- Monday – Dublin
- Tuesday/ Wednesday – Belfast

- Thursday /Friday – Greenock
- Friday – Dublin
- Saturday/Sunday – Liverpool

One customer benefiting from the activity along the Manchester Ship Canal is Quality Freight. Their volumes have grown year on year at their site in Ellesmere Port and in response BG Freight have launched the first ever scheduled weekly call to their site to help them keep up with demand.

Seb Gardiner Managing Director, Quality Freight said “At Quality Freight we are delighted to see this new service develop. This not only increases the capacity for moving volume quickly and efficiently in and out of the Port of Liverpool, but also enhances the service we can offer to new and existing clients at Ellesmere Port. This has improved our storage and distribution capabilities, which feeds well into our port and transport operations.”

Complementing this activity is the continually increasing demand along the Manchester Ship Canal which has seen a six fold (600%) increase in volume since Peel Ports launched a coordinated strategy in 2009 to revive trade along the historic waterway. The strategy has seen investment in and associated development of sites such as Irlam, Port Cheshire, Port Warrington and most significantly Port Salford. In March 2015, Culina announced that it had agreed to be the first tenant at Port Salford with their customer, General Mills as the one of the major users of the facility. The strategy has also seen increasing vessel sizes along the waterway to cope with demand.

**Ends  
2015**

**3 November**

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

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### **Notes to Editor:**

#### **About Liverpool2**

Liverpool2 will allow global shippers ‘ship-to-door’ access to the UK's major import centres via the most economic and lowest carbon route and provide northern UK-based exporters with a more competitive route to market.

The Liverpool2 terminal will connect directly to a major logistics and distribution hub at Port Salford, transporting containers along the Manchester Ship Canal via vessel. The National Import Centre at Port Salford comprising a 154,000 sq. m warehouse and container facility will be able to handle over 300,000 containers and over 37 million freight pallets per year.

[www.peelports.com/liverpool2](http://www.peelports.com/liverpool2)

## About the Irish Sea Hub

The Irish Sea Hub is a product that simplifies the transportation of cargo between key markets. By combining Peel Ports Group's terminals in Glasgow, Dublin, Liverpool and the Manchester Ship Canal with short-sea shipping routes along the Irish Sea offered by BG Freight, it can offer customers a flexible, reliable and efficient way to transport their goods.

## About Peel Ports and the Peel Group

Peel Ports is one of the UK's largest port groups, owning and operating six of the UK and Ireland's most important ports. It handles 70 million tonnes of cargo every year. It is headquartered in Liverpool and employs around 2750 staff.

Peel Ports is part of the Peel Group, one of the UK's leading infrastructure, real estate and investment companies. Its portfolio ranges from airports to energy, and includes flagship sites such as MediaCityUK, Manchester's Trafford Centre and Pinewood Studios.

<http://www.peelports.com>

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