

**Work starts on the new quay wall at Liverpool2
New joint venture partnership appointed by Port of Liverpool**

Construction of Liverpool's new deep water container terminal, Liverpool2, took a major step forward this week with the appointment by Peel Ports of specialised contractors BAM Nuttall and Van Oord to construct the new in-river quay wall. The companies have formed a joint venture to undertake work on the quay wall, which forms the berthing face for the Liverpool2 container terminal.

Work on the quay wall will benefit from extensive land based construction already underway to support the marine works including demolitions, site clearance and site offices for the construction work force and the Liverpool2 terminal operations team.

Dredging started on 6th June and the trailer suction dredgers WD Mersey, Sospan Dua and the UKD Orca removed 75,000m³ of alluvial silts from the site. The second phase saw the water injection dredger Jetset displacing a further 180,000m³ of silts. The large backhoe dredger Goliath will start work on 5th September, excavating and removing a further 315,000m³ of clay to the sea. Finally the mighty 7,000HP Artemis cutter suction dredger will liberate 588,000m³ of underlying rock, sand and gravels for reuse in the infill operations behind the quay wall.

Piling operations will commence on 10th September, with rock drilling to provide the sockets for the 47tonne 1.8m diameter 40m long steel combi piles. In excess of 19,000 tonnes of steelwork and 30,000 tonnes of concrete will be required for the construction of the quay wall alone.

The new terminal will open in 2015, the same year as the widening of the Panama Canal is due to be completed and will enable a new generation of container ships, with a capacity of up to 13,500 TEU, to call directly at the Port of Liverpool. The investment of £300m will enable container ships from around the world to connect directly with the northern half of the UK and Irish Sea hub and so access a market estimated at 4 million TEUs a year.

ENDS

Pictures available upon request

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About the Peel Ports Group

The Peel Ports Group is strategically located to serve the whole of the United Kingdom. Five major gateways from Clydeport to Medway handle a broad spectrum of international trade amounting to more than 65 million tonnes of cargo a year.

At the centre of the country and the heart of the Group are the Port of Liverpool and the Manchester Ship Canal, a continuous water highway forming a single facility of major strategic significance. A unique series of inland ports and logistics hubs along the Ship Canal make this Green Highway Network a viable and sustainable port-centric network.

The Manchester Ship Canal container shuttle service will move in the region of 20,000 containers across a distance of 44 miles between the ports of Liverpool and Manchester in the coming year. That volume is set to increase in 2015 when Liverpool2, Peel Ports' landmark deep water terminal, becomes operational.

Clydeport serves Scotland's industrial heartland. Heysham in Lancashire provides a significant springboard for trade between Britain and Ireland.

Medway Ports sit on the doorstep of the nation's capital in the prime South East Region of England. The Group also includes the operation of container terminals in Belfast and Dublin.

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