



WEC LINES ENHANCES PORTUGAL - UK SERVICE AT TILBURY'S LONDON CONTAINER TERMINAL

WEC Lines announces today (24th October) an enhancement to the current Portugal - UK services with a second call at Leixões in Portugal, before calling at the Port of Tilbury as part of their 'SPM2' rotation.

This schedule change to the 'SPM2' service begins on Monday 27th October and will reduce the current eight day transit time in half, calling at the Ports of Tilbury, Antwerp, Vigo, Leixões, Sines and Lisbon, followed by a second loading call at Leixões, and further strengthening the carrier's presence in the Portuguese markets.

Commenting on the announcement, **Robert Volker, Line Management, from WEC Lines**, said: *"We are delighted to have this faster connection into Tilbury. We have added a second call at Leixões which is a load call only. It will reduce the transit time from eight to four days and in turn gives us a stronger position in the market. Tilbury is the best location for our cargo in the South East as its location, reach, and excellent supply chain ensures that the product reaches inland destinations quickly and efficiently."*

Perry Glading, Chief Operating Officer of Forth Ports (owners of London Container Terminal) said: *"We are very pleased that WEC Lines have chosen to grow their services from Portugal into Tilbury. As London's major port, we have a sophisticated supply chain infrastructure and fast, reliable connections that WEC Lines require, as well as the right knowledge and experience to assist their growth through a first rate service."*

LCT handles in excess of half a million containers per year, and is the only UK port truly servicing both deep sea and short sea customers.

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-Ends-

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Notes to editors:

About London Container Terminal

- Forth Ports acquired fully Tilbury Container Terminal in January 2012, having bought out then joint owners DP World and Associated British Ports. Now rebranded as London Container Terminal, it is the UK's third largest container port. The deep sea terminal is located on the Thames and is a key shipping and distribution location with unrivalled access to London and the South East. It is a busy terminal, handling around 320,000 containers last year, an increase of 2.4% from 2010, and has a strong trading position with the North/South reefer trades, primarily South America and South Africa, and has strong links with a number of other deep sea trades. The Port of Tilbury also runs a successful short sea business which handled around 130,000 containers in 2011, up 7.6% from 2010. The short sea business provides regular links to Continental Europe and to other UK coastal feeder locations.
- The upgrading of the existing facilities at the Port of Tilbury and LCT are part of a larger project involving significant investment to ensure customers receive the best service possible.
- www.londoncontainerterminal.co.uk

About Forth Ports

- 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.
- www.forthports.co.uk