



PRESS RELEASE

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PORT OF GRANGEMOUTH DELIVERS FASTER SERVICE AS NEW CRANE GETS TO WORK

The Port of Grangemouth's new multimillion pound crane gets to work this month at Scotland's largest container terminal. At 45metres high, the new crane has changed the skyline at the port as it joins two other ship-to-shore container cranes (images and drone video clip attached with this release).

For the first time, a trio of Liebherr cranes, were able to work on the **Andromeda J** to unload and reload its container cargo before it sailed to Rotterdam.

This third container crane to join the Forth Ports' fleet is part of a £10million investment programme at the port to increase handling capacity and service for customers by ensuring a faster turnaround time for cargo. More than £6 billion worth of goods passes through Grangemouth each year including food and drink, chemicals, timber, paper and equipment for the oil and gas industry.

As the busy pre-Christmas export season gets underway for food and drink, Grangemouth can service the current and future container volume growth for export and import cargoes both in European and International markets.

Derek Knox, Grangemouth's Port Manager, said: "*We are Scotland's largest container port and we handle some of the country's most valuable exports including food and drink. It is vital that we deliver fast turnaround times for our export and import customers and with this new crane, we can now unload and load a ship with a trio of cranes.*"

This is a huge benefit for our customers who need a reliable and efficient service at ports and the addition of the new crane increases our capability and flexibility to adapt to changing shipping demands. The new crane is also future proofed to enable taller straddle carriers to work

underneath the crane legs, allowing the port to further increase its overall container storage capability in the future.”

The 45 metre high crane, which weighs 524 tonnes, arrived in large sections on board a heavy load carrier vessel in the summer after sailing from Liebherr’s state of the art facility in Killarney, South West Ireland, where the crane was designed and built. The crane was unloaded onto the quayside and constructed by the expert build team from Liebherr on site at the port.

As part of an ongoing major investment programme at Grangemouth, the port introduced three new ESC340 straddle carriers in 2017, increasing the fleet at the container terminal to 16. The port also added a new Hyster empty container handler to the fleet. The new straddles, empty container handler and the new Liebherr crane will increase the handling capacity for both conventional containers and reefers (refrigerated containers). A new terminal operating system and additional storage capacity have also been introduced in 2018.

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Link to the time-lapse footage of the crane construction: <https://vimeo.com/302069107>

Link to the drone video of the crane in operation: <https://vimeo.com/302065862>

For further information/images, please contact:

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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.
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