

New Uruguay-Paraguay road service slashes 75% off dry-season transits

Cargas Del Atlantico - the Uruguayan member of the Famous Pacific Shipping (FPS) Group freight forwarding and consolidation system – has launched a new transshipment service via Montevideo to neighbouring Paraguay, that slashes transit times for Far East imports from up to four months, to just 40 days. Transit times for European shippers are meanwhile cut to as little as 25 days.

During the Paraguayan annual dry season, which lasts from September to March, the normal means of transport into the land-locked country - by barge from Montevideo on the River Parana – becomes extremely unreliable due to decreased draughts; this can result in months of delay at port, and mounting demurrage costs.

Cargas del Atlantico has now pioneered a new transshipment service, using trucks to transfer cargo 1400km by road from Montevideo to the Paraguayan commercial centres of Asuncion and Ciudad del Este. The service caters both for FCL and LCL traffic.

Main import commodities for Paraguay are consumer electronics, and petrochemicals; traffic is made up both of FCL and LCL. With little manufacturing industry at present, Paraguay's main export commodities are agricultural produce such as soy, corn and meat.

To ensure full control of shipments through to destination, Cargas del Atlantico has opened a new representative office in Paraguay, with on-site handling.

Says Cargas del Atlantico MD Hernan Martinez Escardo: "Our new service provides faster and more consistent transit times during the dry season. Although rates are higher than for the river barge route, our overland service eliminates unpredictable and often extremely high demurrage costs."

He concludes: "The service is already being well received by the Paraguayan business community. For shippers, it enables them to promise delivery dates with confidence, and to budget for shipping costs with much greater accuracy."

Although Cargas del Atlantico's traditional main business is FCL shipments, its new service provides a two-way LCL operation between Paraguay and all major world markets. The company also plans to start an airfreight export service, with full documentation and Customs processing.

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About Famous Pacific Shipping (FPS) Group:

Famous Pacific Shipping Group was founded in 1998. Its members provide a comprehensive range of multi-modal freight services including ocean consolidation, NVOCC services, airfreight forwarding, warehousing, logistics, surface transportation and project forwarding. The growing FPS network of 74 members currently spans 200+ bases in over 50 countries.

For further information, please contact:

Famous Pacific Shipping Group

Cindy Ko, Group Secretariat group-adm@fps.com.hk

Telephone: +852 2599 0508