

Freightliner Ltd launches new cranes at Southampton Maritime 40th Anniversary

16/10/12

Freightliner Ltd, The UK's Most Reliable Rail Freight Operator yesterday officially launched two new rail head gantry cranes at the company's Southampton Maritime Terminal, the culmination of a £9m investment by Freightliner.

Customers, industry partners and the Mayor and Mayoress of Southampton attended the ceremony, which celebrated the launch of the new cranes and 40 years of operations at the Southampton Maritime rail freight terminal. Guests witnessed both cranes being named and the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Derek Burke, launching the first official box lifted which boasted a livery to celebrate both the inauguration of the new cranes and the 40th anniversary.

The cranes were named Freightliner Fortis 15-10-2012 and Freightliner Agilitas 15-10-2012. The name Fortis represents strength and power that the new cranes will bring to operations. The name Agilitas represents the ease of movement and efficiency of the new cranes. The dates will be a reminder of the great year in British history in which the cranes were erected.

The £9m investment in the new cranes, together with the associated groundwork, represents the largest single-item capital investment by Freightliner in terminal or ports infrastructure since the privatisation of the business in 1996. The investment maintains Freightliner as the only rail freight operator who has made meaningful capital expenditures in its inland infrastructure, to expand and retain the level of provision and commitment that the Freightliner service provides and that customers rightly demand.

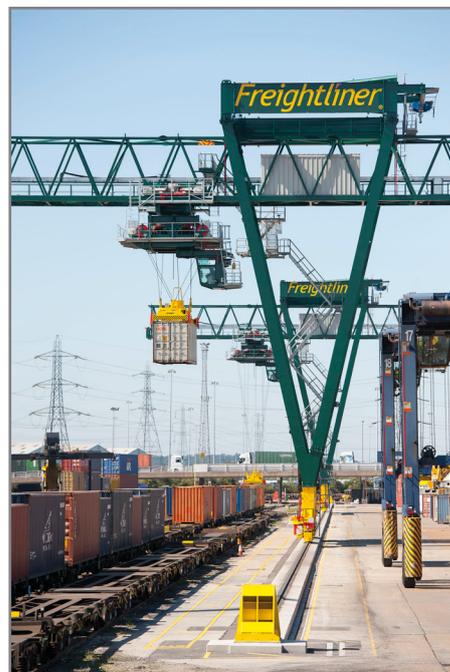
Southampton Maritime terminal has been in operation since 1972 and has stood the test of time to remain a vibrant and successful maritime rail terminal. Since privatisation in 1996, Freightliner has seen Southampton handlings increase by 28 per cent and this year is expected to move in excess of 220,000 containers.

The new cranes which are the largest and most efficient rail terminal cranes in the UK were erected over the August bank holiday in a record three days. This investment represents another clear example of Freightliner's commitment to the intermodal container market and a willingness to invest for the long-term, even in such challenging economic times. The crane investment complements other broader schemes and developments which have transformed the rail service offering from the Port of Southampton, including gauge clearance for the larger 9'6" containers from Southampton to the Midlands, North West and Scotland which has seen the hi-cube movements increase by 76 per cent from Southampton Maritime since commencement.

New rail mounted gantry cranes at Trafford Park and Birmingham, and the operating and environmental benefits provided by our new PowerHaul locomotives have all helped Freightliner to increase container volumes, and take freight off the UK's roads and on to the rail network. This along with new routes, leading Information Technology, and a close working relationship with DPW at Southampton have all contributed to the success of Southampton Maritime over the past 40 years.

Adam Cunliffe, Managing Director, Freightliner Ltd commented, "Today, the launch of these magnificent new cranes in Southampton is the culmination and the celebration of a great deal of effort, pride, passion and investment. The new cranes prove our capability to provide the infrastructural backbone our customers require to have certainty of sustainability for the future.

As the new berth 201 and 202 are completed Freightliner can provide up to 13 roads under the cranes to continue providing any required services as volumes increase. The new cranes will eventually increase lift capacity by up to 80 per cent, although the overall capacity will be increased in stages. The initial increase will meet the demand which was driven by gauge clearance."



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Freightliner Group Limited

Freightliner Group Limited is the parent company of Freightliner Limited (the container business), Freightliner Heavy Haul Limited (the bulk rail freight business) Freightliner Maintenance Limited (a separate entity dedicated to the repair and maintenance of traction and rolling stock) and their European subsidiary, Freightliner Poland Limited.

Since privatisation in 1996 Freightliner Group has:

- Increased turnover by over 180%.
- Increased the volume of containers moved by rail by over 55%, which would otherwise have gone by road, adding to congestion and pollution.
- Increased the number of its employees by 65%.
- Successfully branched out into the movement of bulk freight by rail. The company was the first Rail Freight operator to bring competition into the market place, breaking the monopoly of the incumbent operator.
- Raised investment of well over £477m to fund its growth and expanded business activity.
- Received a number of awards, including the 2006 HSBC Rail Operator of the Year - the first non-passenger company to do so - and in 2009, for the eighth time in eleven years, and the fifth consecutive year, the IFW Rail Freight Award.

Freightliner Limited

Freightliner Limited is the UK's largest haulier of maritime containers, accounting for 20% of the total market share, and 80% of the rail-fed market. It's business is concentrated through five key deep-sea ports: Felixstowe, Southampton, Thamesport, Tilbury and Seaforth. The company provides trunk rail services between these ports and inland rail freight interchanges (of which they own and operate 9), moving customers' containers on the first or last leg of a worldwide voyage, transporting around 3,000 boxes per day. In addition, as part of its complete logistics offering, Freightliner operates a fleet of over 300 road vehicles to provide the road leg to customer's premises.

In March 2004 'Logico' was launched as a new and complementary division to encourage a more diverse group of freight movers to use Freightliner's reliable and efficient Intermodal services. It provides regular rail-service space without the need to make a long term commitment. Just a year after its inception, Logico was awarded the IFW Rail Freight Award for attracting new rail freight business.

Freightliner Heavy Haul Limited

Freightliner Heavy Haul Limited (FHH) was established in 1999 to broaden the market diversity of what had traditionally been a single-market operator trading exclusively in deep-sea containers.

FHH was launched on the basis of using new equipment and recruiting the best people to set new standards of flexibility and reliability in the bulk freight sector. FHH now operates nationwide in the coal, aggregates, cement, waste, and specialist minerals sectors and also moves large numbers of trains in support of Network Rail's own programme of track maintenance and renewals.

Since starting in 1999, FHH has grown to a turnover of over £100m, with over 600 employees, and a fleet of 80 locomotives and over 1300 wagons - a capital investment of over £180m. Using these resources, FHH has secured a position carrying approximately 30% of the bulk rail freight market, and continues to grow.

Freightliner Maintenance Limited

In April 2006 Freightliner Group established a new subsidiary, Freightliner Maintenance Limited (FML), which operates as a separate entity, dedicated to the repair and maintenance of traction and rolling stock. At present, FML is responsible for the scheduled maintenance and repairs of the Freightliner UK fleet of locomotives and coal and cement wagon fleet. FML commenced its operations at their Midland Road depot, but has since grown to include two more depots at Hope and Dunbar in their portfolio, as well as field engineering support across the UK.

Freightliner PL Sp. z o.o.

In 2005 Freightliner Group recognised an opportunity to expand its operations in the European market, and established Freightliner PL Sp. z o.o. FPL began their operations in 2007, entering the Polish market with seven brand new class 66 locomotives and over 430 specialist wagons. After an initial coal contract, they are currently operating cross border services, moving aggregates from a German quarry into Poland.

Freightliner Australia Pty Ltd

Freightliner Australia currently holds Rail Safety Accreditation with the New South Wales Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR), Queensland Transport (QT), and the Western Australian Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) allowing Freightliner to operate without restriction across New South Wales, Queensland and the WestNet Rail Network of Western Australia. With the capability to service a variety of customers and business sectors in each of these jurisdictions Freightliner Australia commenced operations in July 2009, transporting containerised cotton from Wee Waa to Port Botany on behalf of Namoi Cotton. In 2010 Freightliner Australia signed a long term contract with Xstrata Coal for the provision of rail haulage services from their Hunter Valley coal mines in New South Wales, Australia to the port of Newcastle.