

News Release

Port of Felixstowe

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Felixstowe South Public Inquiry Commences

26th October 2004

The Public Inquiry commences today (Tuesday 26th October) into the proposed reconfiguration of the southern part of the Port of Felixstowe.



The reconfiguration involves the conversion of the area previously used by P&O North Sea Ferries Limited, Landguard Terminal, and the now largely redundant Dock Basin, into a new deep-water container terminal.

Commenting on the proposals, Richard Pearson, Managing Director of Hutchison Ports (UK) Limited, said:

“There is a well recognised need for more container terminal capacity in the UK. This development will enable the Port of Felixstowe to berth more of the latest generation of large container vessels simultaneously, securing our position as a major European hub, and ensuring that UK importers and exporters enjoy the full range of direct-call liner services.”

He continued:

“Together with our plans to develop new facilities at Bathside Bay in Harwich, to which we remain fully committed, these developments will secure the position of the Haven Ports as the major gateway for the international trade upon which the country depends.”

The reconfiguration is expected to create 621 new jobs, in addition to the 2,700 people already employed at the Port, with some 860 more in supporting industries and services.

Paul Davey, HPUK Corporate Affairs Manager, added:

“The continued success of the Port is essential for both the national and regional economy. The Port contributes some £70 million to the local economy in wages alone, and over 12,500 people in Suffolk derive their livelihoods from the Port and related industries. The reconfiguration of Felixstowe South will help to secure the future employment of all those that currently rely on the Port for their livelihoods.”

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The proposals would increase the quay length available for container handling by close to 1,000 metres, giving a total quay length of 1,350 metres, dredged to 16 metres alongside. Together with the extension of the Port's Trinity Terminal, Felixstowe would be able to provide a total of nearly four kilometres of deep-water container facilities, and total capacity at the Port would increase by 1.5 million TEUs, to 5.2 million TEUs per annum.

The Public Inquiry, which is to be held at the Hotel Elizabeth Orwell, Felixstowe, is expected to end in November or early December. A decision on the proposals is expected sometime in 2005.

ENDS

Note to Editors:

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Port of Felixstowe (PFL) is the largest container port in the UK, and one of the largest in Europe. PFL is a member of the Hutchison Port Holdings (HPH) Group, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the multinational conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa Limited (HWL). HPH is the world's leading port investor, developer and operator, with interests in 17 countries throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Today, HPH operates a total of 206 berths in 35 ports, together with a number of transportation-related service companies. With industry-recognised core competence in the effective and efficient management and operation of ports, the HPH Group handled 41.5 million TEU in 2003