

Maritime Transport launches new intermodal service

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Maritime Transport Ltd has launched a new intermodal service hauled by GB Railfreight (GBRf), connecting its Birmingham Intermodal Freight Terminal (BIFT) with the Port of Felixstowe.

Maritime says the new service will help provide additional capacity and ensure the movement of goods across Britain during a shortage of more than 100,000 UK lorry drivers.

Maritime's third train to run from the Port of Felixstowe to BIFT commenced on Monday 10th January. The new service, which has increased Maritime's Felixstowe to West Midlands capacity by 40%, runs five days per week from Tuesday to Saturday, with a total transport capacity of 87 TEU in each direction.

Maritime says it has invested more than €5 million in container-handling equipment at BIFT since acquiring the terminal back in 2014, which now has two Konecranes Noell N SC 644 E straddle carriers, two Kalmar ESC450 straddle carriers, and two Sany SDCY100K6GC empty container handlers.

Maritime has ordered additional container handling machinery to facilitate growing container volumes across its intermodal network due to arrive throughout 2022, including six Sany reach stackers and three

Kalmar reach stackers.

John Bailey, managing director – intermodal and terminals at Maritime Transport, said: “We are thrilled to launch this new service with GBRf. Our investment in new routes, new equipment, and our terminals enables us to provide the most advanced logistics solutions and reflects our drive to deliver increased resource at a time when the industry is facing huge challenges. We have achieved unrivalled success in the intermodal sector in a very short period of time, but we are only at the start of a journey that will continue to see us challenge the industry norms and accelerate modal shift.”

Robert Ashton, operations director at Port of Felixstowe, said: “Increasing the proportion of traffic moving by rail is an important part of our strategy to offer the widest possible range of sustainable transport options through the Port of Felixstowe. We are investing in new plant and equipment as part of our own drive towards net-zero and are working with partners, including GB Railfreight and Maritime Transport, to help others remove carbon from their supply chains. With three dedicated rail terminals at the port, we offer more rail services to more inland destinations with greater frequency than any other UK port.”

John Smith, managing director of GB Railfreight, said: ‘We are delighted to be expanding our relationship with Maritime with this new service. The shift to rail freight has a fundamental part to play in tackling carbon emissions and climate change, and it’s great to see businesses choosing rail as a greener alternative without compromising on operational efficiency and reliability. We are very proud of the hard work that has been put into being the industry’s most trusted intermodal carrier.’