

**Press Release:** Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 2:30 pm Central Europe Time

## **APM Terminals Bahrain Welcomes APL Vessel - First shipping line to call new port at Khalifa Bin Salman Port – Bahrain Gateway**

**Manama, Bahrain** - Today the 2500 TEU APL DALIAN Captained by Captain Chen Zhong Ming was the first container vessel to dock at the new Khalifa Bin Salman Port - Bahrain Gateway. The vessel is part of APL's SRX service calling as part of the shipping line's Indian Sub-continent, Lower Red Sea and Arabian Gulf ports liner service. The first call highlights the vision of Bahrain becoming a major shipping hub for the northern Arabian Gulf and strengthening the Kingdom of Bahrain's position as the best location for global business and access to the growth potential of Middle East markets.

The terminal is the newest and most modern in the Middle East, offering shipping lines 1800 meters of quaywall and a draft alongside of 15 meters. Channel dredging will reach 14 meters this year and 15 meters in early 2010. Amongst the extensive investments made to increase productivity and efficiency, APM Terminals has invested in four new Post Panamax Ship-to-Shore cranes offering twin-lift capabilities and a lifting capacity of 61 metric tons along with twelve Rubber Tire Gantry cranes to support the yard operations.

Scott Kelley, Head of Operations at APM Terminals Bahrain, commented "We have been looking forward to this moment – we've spent the last year reviewing processes, simulating operations and training. We believe our team of professionals, world-class equipment and technology gives our customers a competitive edge as the best port in the region."

Through the continuous development of people and facilities APM Terminals will ensure that new productivity records will be achieved whilst maintaining the highest safety standards at all times.

### **About Bahrain Gateway**

The decision to build the new port was proposed in 1995. Five years later, it was approved by the government and design studies started. In 2002, work started on the infrastructure, including the reclamation of 900,000 square meters of sea, which was completed in 2004. The request for initial bids to operate Bahrain Gateway at Khalifa Bin Salman Port was issued by the Government in August 2004.

In the summer of 2005, APM Terminals was awarded the contract to operate Mina Salman and thereafter Khalifa Bin Salman Port (KBSP) for 25 years from commencement of operations at KBSP. The total project cost was about USD 500 million, which includes new buildings, handling equipment, marine equipment and IT infrastructure. APM Terminals Bahrain took over operation of Mina Salman on December 9, 2006.

The migration of operations from the old port to the new port of Bahrain Gateway/Khalifa Bin Salman started April 1, 2009. The old port, called Mina Salman, will cease operations as a commercial port May 1, 2009.

### **About APM Terminals**

APM Terminals, with over USD 3 billion in revenues and over 60 customers in the containership industry, is one of the world's leading providers of container port operations in 34 countries. Leveraging years of shipping experience and the strength of the A.P. Moller-Maersk Group, APM Terminals provides the port capacity and high productivity operations necessary to serve the constantly changing needs of the international trade sector.

With world headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands and a Global Terminal Network of 50 ports, including 26 port projects. APM Terminals' goal is to be the port industry's leading operator.

In 2008, the company invested USD 723 million in new ports and port projects, complementing 2007's investments of USD 850 million.

[www.apmterminals.com](http://www.apmterminals.com)

### **About APM Terminals Bahrain B.S.C.(c)**

APM Terminals Bahrain B.S.C.(c) is a joint venture with YBA Kanoo Holdings of Bahrain. Established in 2006, the Company provides port operations and related services within Bahrain and its coastal waters. Kanoo is a longstanding partner in the Middle East of the A.P. Moller - Maersk Group.

[www.apmterminals.com/wcasia/bahrain](http://www.apmterminals.com/wcasia/bahrain)

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High Resolution photos of first vessel call available by emailing [bahapmtcom@apmterminals.com](mailto:bahapmtcom@apmterminals.com)

Map of the Arabian Gulf showing Bahrain's central location for the region's major markets.

