

**Press Release:** February 15, 2010 at 10:00 am Central Europe Time

## **Aqaba Receives Two Gantry Cranes**

Strength of Jordanian Port sets stage to open Middle East markets further

Aqaba, Jordan – In line with the port master plan, Aqaba Container Terminal (ACT), the Kingdom’s main shipping hub for the Red Sea market has received two Ship-To-Shore (STS) cranes to address market demand.

APM Terminals CEO, Kim Fejfer was in Aqaba to meet with customers and port leaders as part of the port expansion project and added “We believe Aqaba’s attractiveness will play a much larger role in global supply chains. Its location, market and cost-effective, high productivity operations create a clear edge for shippers.”

The STS cranes can handle 18 row post-panamax vessels and perform 30 moves per hour, offering shipping lines cost savings through higher productivity and port capacity. Aqaba Container Terminal CEO, Klaus Laursen commented “We’ve been working closely with shipping lines to serve their needs for port infrastructure, technology and service levels suited to their market ambitions.

Aqaba Container Terminal is a joint venture with the APM Terminals Global Terminal Network and the Aqaba Development Corporation. In December 2009, the Aqaba Container Terminal announced a terminal expansion project, including a 460 meter extension of the quay, to increase annual container throughput capacity to 2 million TEUs. The Port’s 2009-2013 action plan calls for capital expenditure of \$235 million USD, bringing total investment since 2006 to \$335 million USD. The 500,000 square meter (124 acre) facility will double its wharf length to 1000 meters. Despite the severe drop-offs in container traffic worldwide due to the global financial crisis, ACT saw container traffic grow by 25% during the first three quarters of 2009. In 2008, container volume at the port surged by 42% to approximately 600,000 TEUs.

Shadi Al Majali, CEO of the Aqaba Development Company (ADC) and Chairman of Aqaba Container Terminals Board, said: “Investing in developing the infrastructure and technology is imperative to ensure our port is the business hub of choice for the logistics and transport sector serving the MENA region and Kingdom as a whole. “The ADC - APM Terminals joint venture has proven to be a shining example of a successful public-private partnership – one that is quickly redefining the logistical landscape of Aqaba and prosperity of the Kingdom”.

-ENDS-

## **About Aqaba Container Terminal (ACT)**

ACT is a joint venture between Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC) which is the Jordanian Government's central development vehicle for the Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZ) and APM Terminals - one of the world's leading container terminal operators.

After signing a Terminal Management Contract with ADC in 2004, APM Terminals took over the management and operation of the terminal. A further 25-year Joint Development Agreement (JDA) was signed between ADC and the ACT in 2006.

The joint venture represents the first Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative launched by ADC as part of its program to rehabilitate and expand port terminals of Aqaba and wider logistics and transport infrastructure within ASEZ.

[www.act.com.jo](http://www.act.com.jo)

[www.apmterminals.com/africa-mideast-india/aqaba/](http://www.apmterminals.com/africa-mideast-india/aqaba/)

[www.adc.jo](http://www.adc.jo)

### **Contact:**

Klaus Holm Laursen

Chief Executive Officer

Aqaba Container Terminal

Aqaba, Jordan

Tel +962 3 209 1201

[KlausLaursen@ACT.COM.JO](mailto:KlausLaursen@ACT.COM.JO)

## **About APM Terminals**

**– providing the port infrastructure to drive global commerce**

APM Terminals operates a Global Terminal Network of 50 terminals with 19,000 employees in 34 countries that provide the port infrastructure essential to international transportation and global economic growth. The company is the independent port operator of the A.P. Moller-Maersk Group. The liner shipping industry, served by APM Terminals and other operators, carries \$4.6 trillion worth of international trade - approximately one third of the total value of global commerce.

The company works closely with the international shipping community and national governments to reduce costs, deliver operational excellence and improve market access worldwide. Access to modern marine infrastructure drives local, regional and international market competitiveness and economic development. In 2007, the global shipping industry provided 4.2 million jobs worldwide, representing compensation of \$27.2 billion, and

accounted for \$29.4 billion in capital investment, generating \$183.3 billion to global GDP, according to a recent study commissioned by the World Shipping Council.

For logistics professionals, the Global Terminal Network plays an important role in supply chain management with location, capacity, flexibility and efficiency clearly linked to supply chain success and port-centric logistics.

Media can download photos, videos and more information at [www.apmterminals.com](http://www.apmterminals.com)

**Contact:**

Tom Boyd  
Director, External Communications  
APM Terminals  
The Hague, The Netherlands  
Tel +31-70-304-2181  
[Thomas.H.Boyd@apmterminals.com](mailto:Thomas.H.Boyd@apmterminals.com)

**About ADC**

The Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC) was launched at the beginning of 2004 by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) and the Government of Jordan, with the mandate to own and maintain the development and management rights for the strategic assets in the Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZ) including the Aqaba ports, both, air and sea, along with strategic parcels of lands and rights to public utilities within ASEZ, making it the development partner for all investors interested in taking advantage of the endless opportunities that ASEZ has to offer. ADC also has the responsibility to implement the ASEZ Master Plan in a manner that ensures integrated development and transforms Aqaba into a leading business, logistics and leisure hub on the Red Sea, all through maximizing public-private sector partnership and investment.

ASEZ was launched in 2001 with the objective of creating Aqaba as an oasis for commerce, a premium destination for tourism, an incubator for modern technology and a regional hub for transport logistics. ASEZ is regulated by ASEZA, which is responsible for managing, regulating and providing municipal services within ASEZ.

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

**Contact:**

Mr. Nabil Khoury  
Senior Specialist, PR & Media Relations  
Aqaba Development Corporation  
P. O. Box 2680 Aqaba 77110 Jordan  
Tel: +962 3 203 9100  
Fax: +962 3 203 9113  
[nkhoury@adc.jo](mailto:nkhoury@adc.jo)  
[www.adc.jo](http://www.adc.jo)