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LATEST LOGISTICS AND FORWARDING NEWS

FRANCE

CMA CGM in exclusive negotiations to buy Neptune Orient Lines (NOL)

The French shipping group CMA CGM has entered in exclusive negotiations with Lantor Investments, the major shareholder of Neptune Orient Lines (NOL) in a bid to buy out its fleet of 90 vessels which operate under the APL brand. Analysts believe that the container shipping business will remain uncertain and challenging for the next three years and that CGM CMA is more interested in expanding its portfolio of port terminals. The acquisition of NOL will bring under its control the nine terminals that NOL has in Asia, Europe and the United States.

An existing 'motorway of the sea' will benefit 27 million euros of subsidy

To encourage sustainable transportation of freight and provide an alternative to trucks between France and Spain, 27 million euros of subsidy have been given to an existing 'motorway of the sea' (MoS) ro-ro service between the port of Nantes in the west of France and that of Vigo in the north-west of Spain.

The funding from France, Spain and the European Union will be allocated during the next 7 years to ensure the mid-term viability of the MoS. The 2 ferries having each a capacity of 100 unaccompanied trailers, take 27 hours to complete the trip.

Freight traffic on the up through Eurotunnel

With almost 134 000 trucks using its terminals, Eurotunnel recorded last month its highest level of traffic for a month of November since the beginning of its commercial services in 1994.



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INDIA

Non-stop flights between New Delhi and San Francisco

Air India has become the first Indian air carrier to offer a non-stop flight between New Delhi and the West Coast of the US, namely San Francisco. Three flights are scheduled per week, on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Business with the Silicon Valley which is located in San Francisco, is expected to rise in the coming months with this direct flight.

Furthermore, the flight takes 17 hours instead of 23 hours previously for a connecting flight via Chicago.

Peru wants a Free Trade Agreement with India

Peru wants to increase its business relationships with India and is looking to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India within the next 3 to 4 years. Anne Maeda, Officer in charge of Economic and Commercial affairs of the Embassy of Peru in India, said that the FTA will focus on trade, investment, gold mining, energy, IT and pharmaceutical sectors.

Annual trade exchanges between the 2 countries, is expected to rise from US \$1.5 billion to 2 billion.

More flexible demurrage system at the port of Chennai

Due to economic downturn, the Port of Chennai is studying the possibility of being more flexible with the time limit that importers and exporters can store their containers in the port area.



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MADAGASCAR

No flight to China by Air Madagascar for 3 months next year

Air Madagascar has taken the decision to suspend its flights between Madagascar and China as from the beginning of year 2016 and for a period of three months. An economist stated to the press that it may affect the economy of the country since that a number of goods especially electronic products, mobile phones, high value textile products are imported by air from China. In the meantime, Air Mauritius offers flights between Madagascar and China via Mauritius.

The 'Advanced Cargo Declaration' (ACD) system will be implemented

The authorities of Madagascar have stated that the 'Advanced Cargo Declaration' (ACD) system will be implemented.

According to the Professional Association of ship owners and consignees of Madagascar (APACM), this impending implementation has made shipping companies collect as a precautionary measure 100 euros per full container or vehicle unloaded or picked up at any port of Madagascar since the 1st December.

However, the sea and river port agency (APMF) of Madagascar claimed that the ACD fee is already included in the sea freight and does not induce additional costs to exporters and importers.

On their part, the shipping companies insist that their ocean freight tariffs do not include ACD charges.

Turkish Airlines will land at Antananarivo

As from the 16th December 2015, Turkish Airlines will schedule 3 flights per week between Istanbul and Antananarivo. The frequency will be increased to 4 per week in February of next year.



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MAURITIUS

Air Mauritius will be able to tap freight traffic between Asia/South East Asia and Africa

The Governments of Mauritius and of Japan will sign an agreement for the code sharing of designated air carriers.

Following this agreement, Air Mauritius will be able to enter into code sharing with partner airlines of Japan such as Hong Kong Airlines and Malaysia Airlines. The objective of the Government of Mauritius is to enhance connectivity between Africa and Asia through Mauritius. The national carrier, Air Mauritius will be able to tap freight traffic between Asia/South East Asia and Africa.

Air Mauritius Group has reduced its financial losses

According to the latest financial results of Air Mauritius for the quarter which ended 30 September 2015, the Group recorded profits of 5.8 million euros compared to profits of 0.5 million euros during the corresponding period last year. The profits achieved in the second quarter of the 2015/ 2016 financial year of Air Mauritius, have contributed to reduce the Group losses for the half year ending on the 30th September 2015 to 3.9 million euros.

Assessing Wave Energy in Mauritius

Mauritius wants to develop the Blue economy so that it becomes one of the three key pillars of its economy.

In this context, the governments of Mauritius and Australia have signed an agreement on 'Assessing Wave Energy' in Mauritius. The study will be conducted by the Australian firm Carnegie Wave Energy Limited and will require a funding of about 990 000 Australian dollars.



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MOZAMBIQUE

Buses imported from China

To improve public transport, 100 new buses from China are expected to reach the port of Maputo by February of next year.

These buses have been purchased by a public-private partnership between the Transport and Communications Development Fund, an organisation belonging to the Government of Mozambique and Sir Motors, an importer and distributor of vehicles.

The buses will then be sold to the Mozambican Road Transport Federation (FEMATRO) which operates the public transport system in Maputo, the city of Matola and the districts of Boane, Marracuene and Manhica.

Mozambique seeks China's assistance in industrialisation

The presidents of China and Mozambique, Xi Jinping and Filipe Nyusi discussed areas of cooperation at the recent Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the China/Africa Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation (FOCAC) in South Africa. Mozambique wants to add value to its agricultural products through industrialisation. Currently, these goods are exported in an unprocessed state which greatly reduces their selling prices on the international market.

A transit levy applied on trucks carrying pesticides, inks or chemicals

Mozambique has introduced a levy of every truck in transit carrying pesticides, inks or chemicals.

When these trucks move to neighbouring or landlocked countries, a transit fee between US \$300 and US \$500 is charged.



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REUNION ISLAND

CMA CGM new maritime links

As from the beginning of January 2016, the shipping group CMA CGM will offer direct maritime links between several European ports and the port of Reunion Island.

CMA CGM will fully use Port Reunion as its hub in the Indian Ocean. Its NEMO service will call at Port Reunion once a week. CMA CGM will use dedicated feeder vessels to service the Indian Ocean and East Africa destinations from Reunion Island.

The NEMO service of CMA CGM

The new NEMO service of CMA CGM rotation is as follows: Tilbury, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Le Havre, Fos, Genova, Damietta, Pointe des Galets (Port Reunion), Fremantle, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Singapore, Port Kelang, Chennai, Colombo, Cochin, Damietta, Malta, and Salerno.

Two new Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner planes for Air Austral

The air carrier of Reunion Island, Air Austral will take delivery of its two new Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner planes in May and October 2016, Air Austral plans to use them on the routes between Reunion Island and Bangkok, between its base and Mayotte as well as between Mayotte and Paris. The company will connect directly Mayotte to Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport with two flights per week as from the 10th June 2016.

Air Austral intends to deploy the second Dreamliner as from the 2nd November 2016 for its 2 direct flights per week between Saint Denis airport and Bangkok.



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OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

CKYHE has suspended service between Asia and the US south eastern coast

Since the beginning of this month, due to falling freight demand in the winter season, four of the five members of the CKYHE shipping alliance have brought an end to their joint maritime service between Asia and the south eastern coast of the United States.

The 4 sea carriers who have suspended the service are China's Cosco Container Lines, Taiwan's Yang Ming Marine, South Korea's Hanjin Shipping and Taiwan's Evergreen Line.

The 5th shipping company, K Line of Japan did not allocate any vessel to that route.

Hapag-Lloyd has suspended its eastbound call to Lisbon, Portugal

Since the 8th December, the shipping company Hapag-Lloyd has suspended temporarily the eastbound call to Lisbon on its Mediterranean Pacific Service (MPS) due to strikes which cause major disruptions to the time schedule of Hapag-Lloyd.

Extended cooperation between United Airlines and Lufthansa

North America's United Airlines and Germany's Lufthansa intend to extend their cooperation in passenger services to cover cargo on the routes between the United States and Europe.