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- Construction of a combined road-rail cargo terminal near the port of Calais
- The first vessel transforming standard containers into connected objects

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- A total of 30 billion US dollars to be invested in railway projects
- CMA CGM has introduced a rate restoration on all cargo moving from Asian ports to India

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LATEST LOGISTICS AND FORWARDING NEWS

FRANCE

New partnership agreement between Air France-KLM Martinair Cargo and China Southern Cargo

Air France-KLM Martinair Cargo has signed a new partnership agreement with China Southern Cargo that would give their respective customers wider global access.

China Southern Cargo will open new opportunities in the Asia-pacific region to Air France-KLM Martinair Cargo and in turn, China Southern Cargo will benefit from the strong presence of its ally especially in Europe and Africa.

Construction of a combined road-rail cargo terminal near the port of Calais

The German company CargoBeamer will invest at least 15 million euros in the construction of a combined road-rail cargo terminal about 3 km from the port of Calais.

The works will begin by the end of March 2016 and the terminal is expected to be operational by mid-2017. The trains will transport unaccompanied trailers between Calais, France and Leipzig in Germany as well as to other destinations in eastern Europe.

The first vessel transforming standard containers into connected objects

The latest vessel of CMA CGM, Bougainville is not only a 18 000 TEU flagship but also the first one to use the Traxens technology which transforms standard containers into smart, connected objects.



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INDIA

Australian dairy exporters want easier access to the Indian market

Australian exporters of dairy products want their government to obtain a free trade agreement with India so as to gain easier access to that market. They face customs duties varying between 30 and 60%. Their products target the growing middle class of India whose number will rise from 70 million nowadays to 200 million by year 2020.

Dairy exports from Australia to India amounted to 1.2 million dollars in 2013-14.

A total of 30 billion US dollars to be invested in railway projects

The Government of India plans to construct 400 railway stations in a unique model across the country and to invest between 15 and 20 billion US dollars in them.

Discussions were held with the World Bank to create a fund of 30 billion US dollars to finance rail infrastructure projects including upgrading safety and increasing rail connectivity with ports.

CMA CGM has introduced a rate restoration on all cargo moving from Asian ports to India

Since the 15th October, the shipping group CMA CGM has applied a rate restoration of US \$ 50 per 20 ft container moving from all Asian ports to Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India.



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MADAGASCAR

The private sector looks for a new agreement to facilitate exports

Members of the private sector of Madagascar have expressed the need for a new agreement to facilitate exports. A representative of the Board of International Trade showed his concern that the preparation of documents to comply to export procedures require between 10 and 30 days, thus generating considerable costs.

The private sector estimates that transaction costs could be reduced by 15 to 20% by strengthening coordination between the different governmental agencies and that these lower transaction costs will boost the competitiveness of products exported from Madagascar.

Plastic bags banned in Madagascar

Since the 1st October, plastic bags are banned on the Malagasy territory. Any plastic bag is seized by the authorities and sold to the recycling industry which then makes use of plastic.

Hand-made bags made of raffia, a plant of the palm family but also, paper bags are replacing plastic bags for shopping purposes.

Exports from Madagascar to India on the up

During the second quarter of 2015, 44.29 million of US dollars of goods had been exported by Madagascar to India. This is nearly half the value of the total exports of 2014 which amounted to 95.25 million US dollars.



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MAURITIUS

Royal Haskoning DHV to prepare a master plan for Port Louis and Port Mathurin

The Mauritius Ports Authority has appointed the firm Royal Haskoning DHV to undertake studies to prepare a master plan for Port Louis and Port Mathurin in neighbouring Rodrigues Island.

Royal Haskoning DHV has extensive experience in the planning of harbours as well as the development of waterfronts and marinas.

The studies will identify new business opportunities, forecast container and traffic flows especially with the future increase in cruise, transshipment and bunkering activities.

The project is expected to be completed by August 2016.

Performance at the terminals of Port Louis harbour will improve

Performance at the terminals of Port Louis harbour will improve by 2017 with the two new ship-to-shore cranes that will be acquired.

The Cargo Handling Corporation hopes to increase its number of moves per hour for a ship-to-shore crane from 21 to 25.

Furthermore, as soon as the extension works at the quay will be completed, two container ships with a capacity of 8 000 TEU will be able to berth simultaneously.

Dubai Ports World wants to invest in the port

Dubai Ports World is in discussion with the Government for a cooperation agreement with the Cargo Handling Corporation Limited of Mauritius. DP World has already expressed its interest to turn Port Louis in the biggest freeport of the Indian Ocean region.



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MOZAMBIQUE

A freight rail line between Zambia and Mozambique via Zimbabwe

Since the end of last month, an express goods train is operating between Zambia and the port of Beira in Mozambique via Zimbabwe.

The train carries 20 platforms, each holding 12 containers. It takes 2 days to complete its trip.

The train especially transports copper from Zambia to Mozambique and fertilisers on the way back.

The Mozambican Ports and Rail Company, Zambia Railways and the National Railways of Zimbabwe contribute wagons and locomotives.

Rate restoration of CMA CGM from Asia to Madagascar and Mozambique

The French shipping company CMA CGM has applied a rate restoration on its Mozex Service from Asia to Madagascar and Mozambique.

Since the 15th October 2015 (Bill of lading date), an additional fee of US \$ 150 per TEU is charged. All ports of Asia are concerned including those of Japan and of Bangladesh.

The port of Nacala has increased its container handling capacity by 80%

The first of the three phases of the rehabilitation of the northern port of Nacala has been completed. The port can now handle 180 000 TEU per year instead of 100 000 TEU previously.

The next two phases will begin in 2016. The roads of the port will be improved, a new rail terminal will be built and the quay extended.



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REUNION ISLAND

Two new ship-to-shore cranes for Port Reunion

The port of Reunion Island will take delivery of two new ship-to-shore cranes for its container terminal before the end of October 2015. The two cranes were embarked at the port of Shanghai, China on the 14th September on board a special vessel, the Zhen Hua 18 which is specialised in the transportation of heavy, oversized equipment.

The 2 new cranes will contribute to increase the number of containers handled at Port Reunion especially as shipping group CMA CGM is using it as its hub in the Indian Ocean.

Air Austral is interested by China

The air carrier of Reunion Island, Air Austral intends to schedule flights between Roland Garros airport and the town of Guangzhou (China) on the occasion of the Chinese New Year in 2016. It will be celebrated on the 8th February.

Then, as from March 2016, Air Austral plans to start in partnership with Air Madagascar, a direct flight on the route Antananarivo-Saint Denis (Reunion Island)-Guangzhou (China). Air Madagascar will use its new Airbus A 340-300 plane which has been authorised to have access to the European Union air space which includes that of the French overseas department of Reunion Island.

A Boeing 737 for Air Austral

Air Austral has leased a Boeing 737 plane to replace its Boeing 777 200 LR which was not suited to the direct flights to Paris.



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OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

Products imported from the region of Tianjin (China) under scrutiny

The Customs and Border Protection agency of the United States has heightened its monitoring of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-regulated products imported from the region of Tianjin in China which was impacted recently by a series of chemicals blasts.

In addition, the Food and Drug Administration wants to ensure that products have not been contaminated by the explosions. It requires that entry and shipping documents (bills of lading, air waybills, commercial invoices...) be submitted for all food products, medicine and medical devices whether for animals or for humans.

Three additional cranes for the port of Felixstowe

The port of Felixstowe in the United Kingdom has taken delivery of 3 new ship-to-shore gantry cranes.

They will increase the capacity of that port to handle the latest ultra-large container ships which can have up to 24 levels of containers stacked.

Furthermore, each of the new cranes can handle two 40 feet containers at the same time, allowing a substantial increase in the number of moves achieved per hour.

Substantial increase in the transportation of freight between Dover and Calais

P&O Ferries transported 367 000 units of freight between Dover and Calais from July to September 2015, a 30% increase compared to the same period last year and the highest volume during a quarter since 2003.