

Deltaport container terminal opens third berth

BY FIONA ANDERSON, VANCOUVER SUN JANUARY 18, 2010



Michael E. Moore, president and CEO of GCT Global Container Terminals Inc., federal International Trade Minister Stockwell Day and Robin Silvester, president and CEO of Port Metro (left to right) check out the state-of-the-art dockside gantry at the new third berth at Deltaport on Monday.

Photograph by: Deltaport photo, .

VANCOUVER — The third berth at the Deltaport container terminal in Roberts Bank opened for business Monday, sporting the latest cranes that will not only accommodate the largest container ships in the world, but even larger ones that haven't yet been built.

The two-year, \$400-million project increases the container terminal's capacity by 50 per cent, from 1.2 million containers a year, which are measured in 20-foot equivalents or TEUs, to 1.8 million. About 20 hectares of container storage space has also been added.

But it's the three new dual-hoist quad cranes, the first of their kind in North or South America, that sends a message to the world that Vancouver area ports are ready for business.

The expansion of the Panama Canal, which will allow super-sized ships to go through the canal rather than around the southern tip of South America, is slated to be completed in 2014, Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, said in an interview.

“And this type of new gantry crane is equipped to handle the widest ships that are out there right now and the widest that are even on the drawing boards,” Day said. “So as people are making their long-term shipping decisions, it is sending the signal that Asia Pacific Gateway [and] Vancouver ports are ready for business now.”

While the global downturn in the last 18 months has slowed business at Deltaport, as well as other ports around the world, projections are that demand through the Asia-Pacific Gateway will double in the next 10 years, Day said.

“And this is the type of thing where you can’t wait for peak demand,” he said. “You have to be ready and you have to be sending the messages that you’re ready now, which we are.”

Deltaport, which handles about 45 per cent of the container cargo that moves through Canada’s West Coast and more than half of the cargo through Port Metro Vancouver, is operated by TSI Terminal Systems Inc., a division of GCT Global Container Terminals Inc., which is owned by the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan.

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