



The Logiskills Group

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Dear Garvan,

Welcome to the February edition of Irish Freight & Logistics Monthly.

You have been included within our mailing list because we consider you to be a valuable contributor to the industry.

We are aware of the communities need for an electronic platform for company announcements and press releases. We invite you to forward details to us for consideration in the next edition.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and will strive to enhance it, so please send any feedback and suggestions to editor@logiskills.ie

Please feel free to forward this to any interested colleagues who can register to receive it from our home page at www.logiskills.ie

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• **[Walsh Western International merges with TDS Logistics](#)**



Walsh Western International and TDS Logistics have signed a definitive merger agreement. The merged company, the name of which has yet to be announced, will provide global supply chain solutions to the automotive industry and the

technology sector.

TDS Logistics president & CEO Jos Opdeweegh will assume leadership responsibility for the overall management of the merged global company.

Walsh Western International is a European provider of fulfilment, reverse logistics, freight management and transportation solutions for the technology sector. The company manages eighteen logistics hubs in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany.

Upcoming European Events

The Commercial Vehicle Show and Automotive Trade Show, United Kingdom, 24/04/2007

World Mail & Express Europe, United Kingdom, 21/05/2007

SIL 2007 International Logistics & Material Handling Exhibition, Spain, 05/06/2007

UK Express Delivery Conference, United Kingdom, 03/07/2007

Scottish Transport Conference 2007, United Kingdom, 30/10/2007

transportation solutions for the technology sector. The company manages eighteen logistics hubs in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany.

US-based TDS logistics is a global provider of complex supply chain solutions for the automotive industry, and manages 36 logistics facilities in the US, Canada, Belgium, UK, Germany, France, Brazil and China.

The merged company will have a total of 54 facilities operating across North and South America, Europe and Asia, and will employ more than 9,000 people.

• Hauliers Predict Chaos On M50



The Irish Road Haulage Association have predicted widespread traffic chaos on the M50 following the introduction of Dublin City Council's HGV Management Strategy that came into operation. Five- axle HGVs will be banned from a cordon that includes the area between the Royal and Grand canals, as well as Sandymount, Ringsend and part of the Navan Road from 7am-7pm daily.

The IRHA has had lengthy discussions with DCC officials and believes that its elected councillors are "steamrolling" in this crude and unscientific strategy without any professional advice taken. The IRHA believe that this ban will lead to widespread difficulty across the city and is very premature in advance of the M50 being upgraded and barrier free tolling being introduced on the Westlink.

Jimmy Quinn, spokesperson for the IRHA said: "we are very committed to a developing a common sense solution to the DCC HGV strategy, but the mindset of Dublin City Councillors to introduce this change now will lead to chronic traffic congestion on the M50, unless a sensible solution outcome prevails involving the association and stakeholders."

It is estimated up to 2,000 HGVs a day will be removed from Dublin city streets from 7am today, and a large number of these will divert on to the M50.

Hauliers who break the cordon without a permit face fines of up to E1,500 and imprisonment.

However, the council has agreed to pay the tolls on the East-Link bridge - in which it is a shareholder - at a cost of up to E1 million a year for HGVs that have to use the route to access the south port.

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The National Roads Authority says no special arrangements will be made on the M50 to cope with the increased volumes. Hauliers have claimed the ban will cause chaos on the motorway.

• Talks planned on Whelan's dispute



Strike action which would have had repercussions for the supply of goods to the Dunnes Stores chain was recently averted to facilitate emergency talks between a number of disputing parties.

The threatened action followed a unanimous vote for industrial action, including strike action, amongst 460 employees at Whelan's, which is one of the biggest distributors to the Dunnes Stores chain. Whelan Frozen Foods has been storing and distributing food for Dunnes Stores for 26 years.

Whelan's, which has warehousing operations in Dublin, lost its entire contract to supply clothes and chilled and frozen foods to Dunnes Stores in July, with the business awarded to a number of new distributors from March 1.

According to press reports this morning, DCC subsidiary Allied Foods is understood to have been awarded a major distribution contract with Dunnes Stores to deliver the supermarket chain's frozen produce and some of its chilled produce.

Press reports also indicate that Sam Dennigan, a Dublin-based logistics firm, is believed to have won the contract from Dunnes to distribute the remainder of its chilled produce.

• Irish Shipping Services Continues to make "robust progress"



The annual report of the Irish Maritime Development Office says that early indications are that the Irish shipping services sector is continuing to make "robust progress," buoyed by another year of strong economic growth.

The IMDO estimates that the shipping services sector in Ireland employs about 8,300 people in 315 companies, with a combined annual turnover of E1,690 million Euro.

The IMDO report says that a noticeable feature of last year was the growth in capacity and competition in the ro/ro market.

The central corridor from Dublin saw a big increase in freight carrying capacity being added. Irish-based operators, Celtic Link, expanded its services and entered the central corridor market, while incumbent operators Stenaline and P&O added an extra freight vessel to the Dublin-Holyhead and Liverpool routes.

Norfolklane completed its first operational year and further route capacity additions are expected in the first quarter of this year, according to the IMDO, with Celtic Link and P&O expected to add additional new freight capacity.

• Dundalk Port Handles More Traffic



Dundalk Port handled 470,000 tonnes of traffic last year, compared to 350,000 tonnes in 2005. The port company says that 251 ships called to Dundalk, compared with 96 in 2005.

The biggest ship in recently was the Arklow Rose of 4,600 tonnes dwt., carrying 3,000 tones of cargo. General cargoes handled included steel and fuel.

• Dublin HGV ban boosting Rosslare traffic



Rosslare Port has experienced a surge in business as a result of the daytime ban on heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) in Dublin city centre.

The port's operations manager, Aidan Jameson, said more and more freight companies were using the port to avoid toll costs and the M50 around Dublin, which was heavily congested last week as the HGV ban was introduced between 7am and 7pm in Dublin city centre.

Jameson said companies were using Rosslare Port for access to the south and the south-east.

Labour transport spokeswoman Roisin Shortall said she was in Dublin Port last Thursday morning and was told by officers there about the fall in the volume of traffic.

"Dublin Port has become so inaccessible, especially to

south port users who have no access out of the city after 7am, that using Rosslare and other ports has become very attractive. Add in toll charges, fuel costs and substantial time loss for Dublin port users and you can see why this is the case," Shortall said.

A permit charge of E5 will be introduced from May 1 for HGVs using the city centre during the day.

• "K" Line Service Update



"K" Line is pleased to announce that it will launch a new container service between North Europe and the East Coast of South America, in partnership with China Shipping, Hatsu Marine and Maruba.

Commencing at the end of March, the new service will deploy six vessels capable of loading 2,000 teus on a fixed-day weekly frequency. The port rotation will be :

Rotterdam - Hamburg - Antwerp - Santos - Buenos Aires - Montevideo - Rio Grande - Itajai - Santos - Rotterdam.

"K" Line and China Shipping will each provide two vessels to the new service whilst Hatsu Marine and Maruba will provide one each.

• MSC Service Update



MSC MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING CO, has recently introduced direct calls from Antwerp to the following ports in West Africa, with no transshipment on route:

- TEMA:
- ABIDJAN:
- APAPA:

The service is weekly ex Antwerp with transit times of 15 days to TEMA, 18 days to APAPA and 21 days to ABIDJAN.

This service is additional to the MSC's other West Africa service ex Antwerp which calls to DAKAR, LOME, COTONOU, DOUALA and TAKORADI via transshipment at Las Palmas.

In addition, please note that MSC has added the following Ports of call to its global network:

- Montevideo, Uruguay.
- Pecem, Brazil.
- Vizakhapatnam, India.
- Puerto Cortes, Honduras.
- San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The expansion of services is a continuous process within MSC, and more destinations will be added as growth potential is identified.

- **Announce Your Success Here!**

Please submit your company announcements to editor@logiskills.ie for consideration in our next edition.