



PRESS RELEASE

FORTH PORTS, EDDIE STOBART AND DIRECT RAIL SERVICES LAUNCH NEW RAIL SERVICE LINKING TILBURY AND GRANGEMOUTH FOR THE FIRST TIME

Forth Ports in partnership with Eddie Stobart and Direct Rail Services today (18 June) announce a new weekend service linking, for the first time by rail, the ports of Tilbury and Grangemouth, Scotland's largest port.

The new two-way rail service will commence on Friday 28th June and has been launched on the back of customer demand to open up the rail link between the South of England with Central Scotland. The first train will leave Tilbury on a Friday via Daventry and travel overnight arriving into Grangemouth on a Saturday.

The service which uses the DRS state-of-the-art locomotives and wagon fleet has a capacity to travel with 36 Containers and will be managed by Eddie Stobart working closely with both Forth Ports and DRS. The containers will carry cargo to Scotland from the South East including retail goods, food and drink. The return journey from Grangemouth, Scotland's largest port, will support the country's export market with the movement of spirits, chemicals and fresh food including potatoes.

Rail continues to be a key focus due to the reduced carbon emissions and this new service will connect ports in Southern England to central Scotland without using the already congested UK road network.

Peter Ward, Commercial Director at The Port of Tilbury said: *"Linking our ports in the South East and Scotland by rail has been a priority for us and we are pleased to partner with Eddie Stobart and DRS on this new service. The service comes on the back of an increase*

in business at our busy container terminals and underpins our commitment to provide sustainable and cost-effective logistics solutions for our customers, aiding growth and competitiveness in the supply chain. This is the first time that a rail service truly links our ports in Tilbury and Grangemouth which opens up a number of import and export opportunities for our business and customers.”

John Clark, Sector Director at Eddie Stobart said: *“Eddie Stobart Logistics remains one of the only UK operators to offer genuine modal choice for customers, and we’re delighted to be able to extend our rail offering through our new partnership with Direct Rail Services and Forth Ports. Unlike many rail operators, our services are built in direct response to customer requirements – that’s why we’re introducing a new service that will link the Port of Tilbury to Grangemouth for the first time. We believe this will help to provide our customers with a cost effective and sustainable means of moving goods between Southern England and Central Scotland.”*

Chris Connelly, Chief Operating Officer at DRS commented: *“The DRS team are incredibly proud and excited to be working with Forth Ports and Eddie Stobart on this innovative project utilising our state-of-the-art locomotives and wagon fleet. Through partnerships such as these many more road miles can be saved and huge environment benefits will continue to be delivered by rail.”*

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Further information/images:

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Notes to Editors:

About Forth Ports: Forth Ports Limited owns and operates eight commercial ports in the UK – Tilbury on the Thames, Dundee on the Firth of Tay and six on the Firth of Forth – Leith, Grangemouth, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy. www.forthports.co.uk @forthports

The Port of Grangemouth operates Scotland's largest container port and handles in excess of 155,000 containers per annum. Regular container services are now available from Grangemouth with frequent daily sailings to Rotterdam, Antwerp, Felixstowe and Hamburg. Most of the major lines utilise these feeder services to link with mother container vessels plying between the world's major ports. Short sea box traffic is also carried on the weekly services for onward transportation to destinations in Europe and Scandinavia. An important base cargo for the container services is the carrying of Scotch whisky, but significant business includes chemicals in bulk containers, electronic goods, machinery and manufactured goods.

London Container Terminal - the only UK port truly servicing both deep-sea and short-sea customers, London Container Terminal can berth ships both inside the dock and at its deep-water riverside berths, with depths alongside to 13.7 meters. LCT offers the capability to handle in excess of 500,000 containers each year; significant trading position with the North and South reefer (refrigerated container) trades, primarily; South & Central America, North Africa and Australasia with a strong presence in other deep sea trades; serves short sea businesses, which provides links to Continental Europe and to other UK coastal feeder locations. LCT is one of Europe's largest terminals for refrigerated containers, with 1,400 reefer plugs on terminal and access to a 25,000 pallet space cold store facility operated by NFT. The Container terminal is rail linked to main East and West Coast lines and operates intermodal services to the Midlands & Scotland. www.londoncontainerterminal.com

About Eddie Stobart Logistics

Eddie Stobart Logistics is a leading supply chain, transport and logistics business providing industry leading services to many of the UK's best-known brands. Founded in 1970 by Edward Stobart, the business is listed on the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investments Market (AIM) and operates across a broad array of core sectors including ecommerce, manufacturing, industrial & bulk, retail and consumer.

From its headquarters in Warrington, the business operates c.2,500 vehicles, c.4,000 trailers and 26 distribution centres throughout the UK and Europe, providing its services to a range of national and international customers. Through Eddie Stobart's acquisitions its network and scale has grown. iForce has three owned distribution centres and operates out of six customer sites and Speedy Freight has 40 branches. The acquisition of The Pallet Network (TPN) further adds to Eddie Stobart's full range of services offered to customers across the whole end-to-end supply chain. Further information about Eddie Stobart is available at: <http://eddiestobart.com/> Please click here to find information for investors: <http://eddiestobart.com/investor-relations/>

About DRS

DRS provides a comprehensive range of rail transport and network support services. Key services include: Intermodal Freight; Specialist Freight; Rail Network Infrastructure Support; Major Infrastructure Project Support; Passenger & Train Operating Company Support.

Our clients include many of the UK's leading freight companies as well as FTSE 100 businesses. Stobart Group rely on DRS to provide the rail leg of many of their long distance freight transports. While big names such as Virgin and Tesco rely on DRS to keep their businesses running reliably, efficiently and to the highest performance standards. Our services save money, reduce CO₂ and takes many millions of lorry miles off the UK's roads, making Britain safer, greener and more efficient. **For more info go to www.directrailservices.com**