



7 October 2019

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Pontoon launch marks milestone in Tilbury2 development**

A floating pontoon used to discharge freight ferry vessels at the new Tilbury2 development at Port of Tilbury has been launched, marking a major milestone in the creation of a new multi-million pound port for London.

The pontoon, measuring 55 x 45m in dimensions, was launched from a slipway earlier this month from Ravestein BV yard in Deest, Holland. When complete the pontoon will be used to discharge freight Roll On/Roll Off (RoRo) vessels into the new terminal currently under construction by GRAHAM at Tilbury2.

The pontoon finishing works is expected to be completed in October, when it will then be towed by tug along with the linkspan bridge, ready for installation at the new RoRo terminal before the end of the year.

Paul Scott, contracts director for GRAHAM, said: *"This launch is a significant milestone in Tilbury2's marine package of works that will enable the terminal's Roll On/Roll Off function to be realised.*

*"Once complete, the floating pontoon will provide large scale capacity for the loading and discharge of RoRo vessels at the terminal, enabling a huge increase in the volume of cargo being transported across the quay. The economic and social benefits of this scheme, not just locally, but nationally, cannot be understated and this launch is an exciting milestone in the scheme's progression."*

Peter Ward, Commercial Director at The Port of Tilbury said: *"The launch of the pontoon is a significant part of the creation of our new port Tilbury2 and we are pleased that the construction is on track for Spring 2020. When operational, T2 will be the largest unaccompanied Ro-Ro terminal in the UK."*

The Tilbury2 project consists of the construction of a new port terminal and associated facilities on land at the former Tilbury Power Station on the north bank of the River Thames at Tilbury.

When operational in Spring 2020, Tilbury2 will be the UK's largest unaccompanied freight ferry port, the country's biggest construction processing hub and will see the creation of a new significantly larger rail head which can accommodate the longest freight trains of 775m.

The project is central to the Port of Tilbury's £1 billion investment programme during 2012-20, which has seen it double the size of its business in the past 10 years and is projected to

double the volume of cargo across the quay (from 16 million to 32 million tonnes) and increase direct employment (from 3,500 to 12,000 jobs) over the next 10-15 years.

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## **Notes to editors**

### **About GRAHAM**

GRAHAM is a privately-owned company that specialises in the delivery of award-winning building, civil engineering, interior fit-out, facilities management and investment projects.

A truly national business, with an annual turnover of £735m (2019), it operates from a network of 23 regional offices throughout the UK and Ireland and employs over 2,200 colleagues.

Proudly “delivering lasting impact” since 1778, it is currently completing over 100 live projects across a range of key sectors including education, healthcare, commercial, retail, highways and rail.

Winner of the Major Contractor of the Year at the 2017 Building Awards, GRAHAM was the first contractor in the UK to achieve Investors in People (IIP) Platinum and IIP Wellbeing accreditations.

It was also the first UK wide company to achieve the British Standards Institute (BSI) Kitemark™ certification for both BIM Design and Construction (PAS 1192-2) and Asset Management (PAS 1192-3).

With an exceptionally strong £1.2bn pipeline, GRAHAM was ranked 95th in the annual Sunday Times HSBC Top Track 100 – a league table which ranks Britain's top 100 private companies with the biggest sales.

For more information, visit the website: [www.graham.co.uk](http://www.graham.co.uk)

[For more information on Tilbury2, please go to www.tilbury2.co.uk](http://www.tilbury2.co.uk)

### About The Port of Tilbury / Tilbury2

1. **Forth Ports Ltd** owns and operates Tilbury, alongside seven other commercial ports on the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Tay: Grangemouth, Dundee, Leith, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy. In October 2018, PSP Investments became majority shareholder in Forth Ports Limited, to along with other minority co-investors, GLIL Infrastructure, First State Super, Construction and Building Unions Superannuation.

2. **The Port of Tilbury is the number one UK port** for forestry products, construction materials, paper, grain, recyclables and warehousing space. The port has a strong market presence in bulk commodities, ro-ro, cars and cruise vessels. The port's London Container Terminal handles a mix of short and dee- sea services, is the UK's number four port for containers and has the greatest reefer (refrigerated container) point connectivity in Europe.

Tilbury's strategic location makes it a natural point for distribution, with nearly 20 million people living within 75 miles. Serving the UK's market, the port offers customers excellent transport links to and from the UK's capital and across the South East where over 50% of the population live and work. The port is a diverse multi-modal hub, covering around 1,000 acres (850 acres and the London Distribution Park, in addition to the Tilbury2 site) and is well positioned to access the M25 orbital motorway and the rest of the UK's national motorway network. In addition, there are direct rail connections within the port and dedicated barge facilities.

3. The privately funded port, **Tilbury2**, is being built on a site covering in excess of 150 acres, which was part of the location of the former Tilbury Power Station. When operational in Spring 2020, Tilbury2 will be the UK's largest unaccompanied ferry port and the country's biggest construction processing hub, with AEO-trusted trader status. For more go to [www.tilbury2.co.uk](http://www.tilbury2.co.uk)