



## MARITIME MINISTER VISITS NEW PORT TO SEE PROGRESS

**Release date: Friday 24th January**

Nusrat Ghani MP, Maritime Minister, visited the Port of Tilbury – London's major port – today for an overview of the Forth Ports Group's flagship investment – the new 160 acre port terminal, Tilbury2 – alongside the community outreach, employment and re-training programmes to support former armed forces personnel and their families get back-to-work, utilising the Tilbury on the Thames Trust's high-tech simulator suite.

The Minister also met two female graduate trainees and heard about the Group's efforts to promote greater gender diversity, as part of the Women in Maritime initiative.

The Minister was also briefed on Tilbury's network of short-sea container routes to northern and southern Europe, including the latest addition – a weekly service to Portugal (Lisbon and Leixões) operated by Samskip / X-Press Containerised, predominantly for fresh produce, beverages and manufactured goods.

The £250m 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 April 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 site will be trusted trader Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) accredited and will employ the latest border technology, such as number plate recognition. The marine and terrestrial construction programme is being delivered by GRAHAM.

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.

*"Our new port is nearing completion at a crucial time as the UK prepares to leave the European Union. Harnessing the best-in-class border processes, Tilbury2 will be Brexit ready when the first ship docks at the start of April,"* commented **Charles Hammond, Chief Executive of Forth Ports**.

**Nusrat Ghani MP, Maritime Minister**, said: *"Ports are at the heart of the UK's economy and I was delighted to visit the Port of Tilbury today and see the progress being made with Tilbury2 after the major development was recently given the go-ahead by the Department for Transport.*

*"This is an impressive example of how we are supporting our ports to harness talent,*

*boosting diversity and taking advantage of technologies to bolster the capabilities of nearly 30,000 people who work at the ports around the country."*

On the work of the Tilbury on the Thames Trust, **Charles Hammond**, added: "*Forth Ports has a long-standing connection with the armed forces and is proud to support former soldiers, seamen and airmen back to work by equipping them with essential skills needed in a modern logistics setting through our range of training programmes harnessing our simulator suite.*"

**Ends**

**For further information/images, please contact:**

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### **Notes to Editor**

1. **Forth Ports Ltd** (the Group) 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.
2. 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.
3. The **Port of Tilbury** is London's major port handling paper and forest products, short and deep sea containers and ro-ro, grain and bulk commodities, construction and building materials, cruise vessels and recyclables in excess of 1,000 acre site. Tilbury is the number one UK port for construction materials, forestry products, paper, grain and recyclables.
4. The Port and its tenants are in the middle of delivering a **£1bn capital investment programme, 2012-20**. This includes a recently completed 70 acre port estate extension, the London Distribution Park, and the construction of a new port terminal, Tilbury2. Tilbury2 is the fourth extension to the port estate since privatisation in the 1990s. Tilbury's proximity to Greater London, central position in the South East and its multi-modal connectivity is fuelling sustained business growth.
5. **Tilbury2** will allow **P&O Ferries** to expand their Tilbury-Zeebrugge ro-ro route by in excess of 200% through the use of larger vessels and a quicker port turnaround time, as well as developing a network of other northern European connections. The P&O service is predominantly use by unaccompanied trailers. Currently, the company operates two ferries on the route; 24 times a week, transit lasts eight hours, ships can load and unload in four hours, with a drop off and collection of a trailer/container of 20-30 minutes. For more information about Tilbury2, go to [www.tilbury2.co.uk](http://www.tilbury2.co.uk)
6. In February 2018, the Port of Tilbury's award-winning Logistics Training Academy in partnership with the **Tilbury on the Thames Trust (TTT)** welcomed the arrival of a new state-of-the-art fully immersive training simulator as part of the 'Attention to Logistics' training programme. The Vortex ship-to-shore and straddle carrier simulator was purchased by the TTT from CM Labs Simulations of Montreal.
7. 2020 is the 90th anniversary of the art deco London Cruise Terminal. The terminal houses the TTT and plays a key role in the celebrations to mark Windrush Day – a day to mark the first arrival of *The Empire Windrush* on the 22nd June 1948.