



9 October 2020

PRESS RELEASE

SAMSKIP LAUNCHES NEW GRANGEMOUTH CONTAINER SERVICE FOR SCOTTISH EXPORTERS DIRECT TO MAINLAND EUROPE

The arrival of the *Vanquish* into Scotland's key strategic freight hub at The Port of Grangemouth today (see image) launched a new-short sea shipping call with Samskip for Scottish exporters and importers direct into mainland Europe.

At a crucial time for the UK as preparations are underway for the UK's departure from the EU customs union, this new weekly call into Grangemouth expands the vessel rotation on Samskip's existing Amsterdam/Hull service, opening up wider coverage for customers and providing Samskip with additional capacity to meet increasing demand from the Scottish market.

The service offers an alternative to customers current supply chains with a regular additional call into mainland Europe each week. Cargos expected to use the service include food and drink; paper and steel products. The weekly rotation calling into Grangemouth each Thursday, also calls into Hull and Amsterdam.

Scott Montgomery, Manager of Sales & Operations in Scotland for Samskip said:

"Customers have become accustomed to our reliability and the reach of our intermodal services deep into continental Europe. As their businesses have grown, we've grown with them, increasing our capacity on a regular basis to meet their needs and working closely with the Port of Grangemouth to move Scottish business through a Scottish port. Now we take the next step, adding a second ship to improve our capacity, frequency and transit times to and from a number of key markets, in particular, Germany. We're Brexit ready and our additional ship can help our customers make sure their supply chains are too."

Commenting on the new service, **Derek Knox, Senior Port Manager at The Port of Grangemouth** said: *"It's great news for Grangemouth and for the Scottish market that Samskip have chosen the port for this additional call on their growing short-sea European service. The Port of Grangemouth plays a key role in Scotland's logistics and freight sector and this additional call will increase the frequency of vessels connecting to mainland Europe and provide an enhancement to the current offering from the Port to the Scottish Market. Grangemouth is Scotland's key strategic freight hub with the country's largest container port. Samskip's customers will benefit from our efficient and fast turnaround times in addition to the many advantages that can be obtained from our key strategic location within Scotland.*

This call is a new alternative to existing supply chain solutions as the UK prepares to leave the EU on 31st December. These changes should both streamline supply chains and also contribute to our net zero targets as they will facilitate the transfer to short sea shipping routes as opposed to road transport. We continue to invest significantly in Grangemouth with new equipment, an expanded container terminal area and over 400 reefer connections securing us as Scotland's freight hub of choice."

Koen Overtoom, CEP Port of Amsterdam said: *"We are very pleased with this new Grangemouth-Amsterdam connection, as it further expands the short sea proposition of the port of Amsterdam. It shows the strength of the partnership between Forth Ports, Samskip, TMA Logistics and ourselves and connects the hinterland of Amsterdam with the Northern British market, offering new opportunities for shippers. Furthermore, this is a great confirmation coming from the market as it shows the importance of offering efficient and reliable services between our ports."*

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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. Within and around the Firths of Forth and Tay, Forth Ports manages and operates an area of 280 square miles of navigable waters, including two specialised marine terminals for oil and gas export and provides other marine services, such as towage and conservancy.
www.forthports.co.uk @forthports

About The Port of Grangemouth: The Port of Grangemouth operates Scotland's largest container port and handles in excess of 155,000 containers per annum. More than £6billion worth of goods passes through Grangemouth each year including steel plate, timber, paper and equipment for the oil and gas industry. There are regular container services 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.