



PRESS RELEASE

Port of Felixstowe to get better rail connection

FELIXSTOWE, UK: October 16, 2017. A £60.4 million rail improvement scheme, jointly funded by the UK's Network Rail and Hutchison Ports, will enable 47 freight trains to run per day in each direction between the Port of Felixstowe and the main rail line at Ipswich.

Commenting on the scheme, Clemence Cheng, Executive Director Hutchison Ports and CEO of the Port of Felixstowe, said: "Rail is an increasingly important differentiator as shipping lines and cargo owners look to remove carbon from their supply chains. The Port of Felixstowe already has the widest choice of rail services in the UK with 33 daily services to 17 different inland destinations.

"This scheme complements the investment we have made in rail capacity at the port and will allow us to offer an even greater range of sustainable distribution option to our customers. Over 100 million HGV miles per year are already saved by using rail freight from Felixstowe and we look forward to that figure increasing significantly in future."

Freightliner's UK Managing Director, Adam Cunliffe said: "We are delighted that the Port of Felixstowe's improvement plans have been given the go-ahead which will create much needed additional rail freight capacity at the port. As well as satisfying growing customer demand, the environmental benefits of moving freight by rail are significant, and we look forward to operating increased services once the enhanced rail connections are complete."

John Smith, Managing Director of GB Railfreight, added: "Great news, GB Railfreight see this as a huge milestone in the development of a fit for purpose UK intermodal rail freight network. The Felixstowe Branch Line is part of a key strategic freight route through to the Midlands and Northwest. This new capacity connecting the Port of Felixstowe will result in increased modal shift and radically reduce the impact of road vehicles on our environment and public health."

Hans-Georg Werner, CEO at DB Cargo UK, said: "DB Cargo UK is pleased that these improvement plans have been given the green light. This much needed additional rail freight capacity will allow for more competition which is good for the Port of Felixstowe and good for all rail freight customers."

Meliha Duymaz, Network Rail's Route Managing Director for Anglia, said: "We're improving the Felixstowe branch line to provide a step change for rail freight in Suffolk and beyond as part of our Railway Upgrade Plan. We're supporting the growth of the UK economy by enabling more goods to be transported on the railway and reducing the number of lorries on the road. The work will also create a safer and more reliable railway for passengers travelling between Ipswich and Felixstowe."

Network Rail is delivering the project that will enable more goods to be transported by rail, supporting the growth of the UK economy, as part of its Railway Upgrade Plan. In the coming months, engineers will start clearing vegetation in preparation for building the second track.