

Port of Cherbourg, 29 August 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Ports of Normandy starts work on the multimodal terminal for the Port of Cherbourg

Today, in the Port of Cherbourg, Hervé Morin, Chairman of the Ports of Normandy and Chairman of Normandy Council, officially launched the construction work to build the multimodal terminal in the Port of Cherbourg. Also present were Jean-Marc Roué, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Brittany Ferries, Xavier Brunetière, Prefect of Manche, Marc Véran, Maritime Prefect of the Channel and the North Sea, Thierry Baraté, Director of the Customer Accounts and Services Division of SNCF Réseau Normandie, Axel Fortin-Larivière, Vice-Chairman of Manche Council, David Margueritte, Chairman of the Cotentin Urban Area and Cherbourg Port, and Benoit Arrivé, Mayor of Cherbourg-en-Cotentin and Vice-Chairman of the Cotentin Urban Area. This investment is part of a vast rail-road transport scheme which, once completed, will connect the south-west of France to Great Britain and Ireland through Cherbourg-en-Cotentin. The latter portion is managed by Brittany Ferries and Ports of Normandy, and aims to significantly enlarge the Port of Cherbourg's catchment area.

Why build a multimodal terminal?

In 2022 the cross-Channel business amounted to about five million heavy goods vehicles arriving in France (Channel Tunnel traffic included). This business has been enjoying steady growth over the last decade (+25%). In addition to this structural growth, the freight ferry business is changing and new challenges relating to environmental issues, Brexit and the increasing size of vessels are emerging. Together, all these factors are tending to lead to less reliance on "road-only" solutions, and the emergence of unaccompanied loads and massive alternative land transport.

Consequently, Ports of Normandy has set itself five strategic goals:

- Accommodate larger vessels
- Consolidate and enlarge its catchment area
- Rise to the challenges of Brexit and the EES border controls
- Make possible a new and competitive land transport service that is both an alternative and complementary to road transport.
- Contribute to providing more environmentally friendly transport

In 2020 Ports of Normandy called for expressions of interest (AMI) for the purpose of designating the users of the multimodal terminal in the Port of Cherbourg, the only cross-Channel terminal west of the Dover Strait that can be easily connected to the rail network. Brittany Ferries replied with a proposal involving a rail service between Cherbourg and Bayonne.

Through this service, Brittany Ferries aims to:

- Bolster its productivity by reducing the number of tractor units shipped (optimize weight and volume carried) in order to increase the number of unaccompanied vehicles (trailers) carried across the entire maritime freight business.
- Improve the environmental performance of shipping
- Consolidate its position on long routes between Spain and the British Isles, and diversify its maritime services to include rail transport.

This rail-transport project is part of a much larger strategy that is being developed by Brittany Ferries, and which includes the renewal of its fleet and the adoption of ever more eco-friendly propulsion systems. Brittany Ferries is now making an extra three rotations to Cherbourg with its new vessels – *Galicia*, *Salamanca*, *Santona* – as part of its strategy to increase its freight business. The Cherbourg rolling road project and its multimodal terminal complement this consolidation of the Roscoff-based operator's services.

Brittany Ferries' proposal is based on the LOHR system which:

- Makes the trailers compatible with railway tunnels, a major constraint in France and the Iberian Peninsula
- Enables the loading of trailers that cannot be lifted, which accounts for the majority of road trailers
- Implements a competitive logistics system which makes loading operations simpler, quicker and safer
- Makes possible connections to other French and European terminals (Sète, Marseilles, Italy...)

For Brittany Ferries, this project requires the creation of a rail terminal in Mouguerre (in the urban area of Bayonne) and a 950-km rail route between Mouguerre and Cherbourg, as well as a daily return service with a carrying capacity of 42 trailers each way.

Construction of the multimodal terminal

After holding a public consultation in April 2020 and successfully rerouting the Boulevard Maritime to free up the 2-hectare site required for the construction of the multimodal terminal, Ports of Normandy will launch the construction work on the terminal in September. The works have been carefully planned to ensure no traffic disruption. The terminal is expected to enter service in September 2024.

An industrial grouping comprising OFFROY (Groupe NGE), NGE GC (Groupe NGE) and DNA CONSULT will undertake the construction work on behalf of Ports of Normandy in accordance with the following schedule:

- September 2023: work starts
- October 2023 to March 2024: civil engineering works on the terminal dock
- April 2024: construction of the facilities
- November 2023 to April 2024: railway construction work
- January 2024: construction of a building for inspecting the trailers
- February to May 2024: road construction work, the entry and exit flows having been entirely redesigned during the construction of the multimodal terminal in order to ensure that traffic moves freely
- July 2024: work ends

The line will open thereafter. After a period of gradually increasing the operating load, the line will be able to process about 20,000 trailers inbound or outbound through the Port of Cherbourg.

For Ports of Normandy, this project represents an investment of €13 million, funded by Normandy Council (€1.7 M), Manche Council (€850 K), the Cotentin Urban Area (€285 K) and self-funding (€8.7 M). The European Union is also funding the project to the tune of €1.4 (included in the aforementioned €13 M). As for Cherbourg Port, the investment amounts to €4 M, bringing the total to just over €17 M.

The project's partners are also making progress:

- Brittany Ferries has ordered the LOHR wagons. 47 wagons have already been ordered from this French company which is renowned for its expertise. An initial delivery of 22 wagons is scheduled for 15 December 2023. The remaining 25 wagons are scheduled to arrive by 31 May 2024. In Mouguerre, the project to build the terminal is moving forward, in collaboration with the Basque Country Urban Area. The purchase of the land will be completed in the coming weeks (the sale agreements were signed several months ago) and the surveys relating to the position of the terminal have been finalized.
- SNCF Réseau has carried out work on certain tunnels to ensure their compliance with the LOHR dimensions, and has completed the surveys to allow for the track to be upgraded between the station and the port. Outstanding works include installing railway points for the terminal, and carrying out works relating to safety, such as level crossings.
- Cherbourg Port will start building technical buildings and erecting perimeter fences in September/October.

Hervé Morin, Chairman of Ports of Normandy: ***“Concerns for the environment, the increasing size of vessels and Brexit are all having a profound impact on cross-Channel traffic. Ports of Normandy and Brittany Ferries have decided to rise to the challenge of these issues by developing an alternative mode of transport. This ambitious project will ensure a greater catchment area for the Port of Cherbourg and thus allow it to pursue its development, without compromising the cross-Channel traffic passing through Dieppe and Ouistreham. Instead, it is offering an alternative and complementary solution that is environmentally friendly.***

Jean-Marc Roué, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Brittany Ferries: ***“We are proud to be the first operator chosen for this multimodal terminal which has the backing of the Region of Normandy, the Department of Manche, the Cotentin Urban Area and Ports of Normandy. Proof of its international strategic interest, this terminal is being co-funded by the European Union. But the lion's share of the credit must go to Chairman Hervé Morin for his unwavering and enthusiastic commitment. His determination and support were decisive to the success of our multimodal rolling road project between Cherbourg and Mouguerre. He is a brave elected representative who has breathed new life into the Norman shipping sector. He has just launched the electrification of its wharves, thus ensuring a decisive head start both in France and in Europe. This multimodal terminal is another key element in the decarbonization policy which saw the light of day thanks to him, and of which Normandy can be proud. In concert with the Norman authorities, to whom Brittany Ferries is proud to be a faithful partner for nearly forty years, we are going to write a new page in the history of the Port of Cherbourg-en-Cotentin, positioning it both on land and at sea as a bridge between the Iberian Peninsula and the British Isles.”***

Jean Morin, Chairman of Manche Council: ***“The launch today of the construction of the future multimodal terminal marks the start of the combined transport project between Cherbourg-en-Cotentin and Bayonne. This rolling road for freight traffic will consolidate the Port of Cherbourg’s position in cross-Channel trade. Its development has been spectacular and we are rightly proud. I am delighted that this new service, which is not only competitive but offers an alternative, complementary solution to road transport, is reducing the port’s environmental impact.”***

David Margueritte, Chairman of the Cotentin Urban Area and Cherbourg Port:

“The activities of the Port of Cherbourg reach beyond its perimeter fence. This combined transport project is a concrete example which consolidates even more the strategic position of our region of the Channel/North Sea coast in commercial and maritime traffic. The busiest French port running services to Ireland and a key player in the development of marine renewable energy, the Port of Cherbourg is endowing itself with a new asset that will satisfy great environmental expectations and promises to be a catalyst for a new economic boom.”

Benoît Arrivé, Mayor of Cherbourg-en-Cotentin: ***“The commercial docks continue to gain market share and the launch of the combined transport project is yet another illustration of this. Cross-Channel business regains its rightful place in Cherbourg-en-Cotentin, and it is a good thing that we are the first Channel port to get road freight onto the railways. It is a step in the right direction, just like the electrification of wharves and merchant ships.”***

Thierry Baraté, Director of the Customer Accounts and Services Division of SNCF Réseau Normandie: ***“This project is a good illustration of SNCF Réseau’s commitment to increasing the share of rail-freight in France’s logistics. Our teams are working alongside Brittany Ferries and the Ports of Normandy in order to bring about the Cherbourg-Mouguerre rolling road. All our departments are contributing to the endeavour, carrying out work in Cherbourg and on the rest of the route, as well as developing the timetables and itineraries of the future trains.”***

ABOUT PORTS OF NORMANDY

Owner and administrator of the ports of Caen-Ouistreham, Cherbourg, and Dieppe, Ports of Normandy represents:

6,000 direct and indirect jobs (INSEE Study 2016) / €435m invested in Normandy since its creation in 2007 / 100 ha dedicated to Marines Renewable Energies, a maintenance base in Caen-Ouistreham, and another in Dieppe to come / 2 million cross-Channel passengers per year / 6.5 million tonnes of cargo per year / Close to 60 cruise ship visits per year and more than 100,000 cruise passengers / 3,200 marina berths, a dry stack marina, 33,600 overnight stays – 7,500 visitors per year / 1/3 of all fisheries landings in Normandy (i.e. + 12,000 T of fish) / more than 300 dry dockings per year

Ports of Normandy, an alliance between Normandy Council, the Departments of Calvados, Manche and Seine-Maritime, and the urban areas of Caen-la-Mer, Le Cotentin and Dieppe-Maritime, serving economic development in the region. Learn more about Ports of Normandy at portsdenormandie.fr

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