



PREMIERE ERA



NEWSLETTER



SINGAPORE's Neptune Orient Lines (NOL) has confirmed that it is in exclusive talks with CMA CGM over the possible sale of the company to the French shipping line.



NOL, whose ships operate under the APL brand, said on Saturday that it has, with its single biggest shareholder, Lenton Investments, a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore's Temasek state-run investment fund, "entered into an exclusivity agreement with CMA CGM with respect to a potential acquisition of NOL by way of pre-conditional voluntary general offer".

There is no assurance that such negotiation will result in any definitive agreement or transaction or that any offer for NOL will be made

If the deals go through, it would be one of the biggest acquisitions in the shipping container industry in years. The deal would bring the French line close in size to Mediterranean Shipping Company, the market number two.

It would further reinforce CMA CGM as a global force in container shipping, leveraging the strong geographic and operational complementarity of both groups

NOL - which took over the US's APL in 1997 - is stronger than CMA CGM in routes between Asia and North America. The shipping line reported a US\$95.6 million net loss for the third quarter, on revenue down 28 per cent to \$1.21 billion

CaroTrans starts another direct, weekly LCL service from Taiwan to NY

MAJOR NON-VESSEL OPERATING COMMON CARRIER (NVOCC) CAROTRANS HAS ANNOUNCED A NEW, DIRECT LCL IMPORT SERVICES BETWEEN TAIWAN AND NEW YORK WITH THE FIRST SAILING TO THE US EAST COAST SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 4.

THE SERVICE FEATURES A 32-DAY TRANSIT FROM TAICHUNG, KAOSHIUNG AND KEELUNG, TAIWAN AND EXPRESS CONNECTIONS TO BALTIMORE, BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA AND PITTSBURGH

TAIWAN IS A MAJOR EXPORTER OF ELECTRONICS, ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, BASIC METALS, PLASTICS, RUBBER, OPTICAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTRUMENTS AND CHEMICALS.



China's Ningbo International Airport & Logistics Development Company and Budapest Airport in Hungary have signed a strategic cooperation agreement in Shanghai, which both parties hope will lead to the commencement of direct cargo flights between the two cities.

Hungary's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dr Laszlo Szabo, held talks with the Vice Governor of Zhejiang province and the mayor of Ningbo city this June, in Ningbo. During the meeting Dr Szabo welcomed the possibility of launching a direct Budapest-Ningbo link and cargo connection to strengthen economic and trade relations between Hungary and China.

The leaders of Ningbo Airport previously visited Budapest, gaining information on development prospects in Central and Eastern Europe and opportunities for the launch of direct cargo flights.

The signing of this strategic cooperation agreement is of great significance, it is in the interest of both Budapest Airport and Ningbo Airport to have a direct cargo flight between China and Hungary in the near future

This agreement foresees even broader cooperation. Budapest would be an ideal Eastern European logistics and distribution hub for Chinese exporters with the 1,000 kilometre catchment area of our airport including no less than 19 countries

Budapest Airport's air cargo volume increased by 7.6 per cent recorded end-October, compared to 2014 figures. Chinese cargo traffic is also growing dynamically, with the relaunch of the direct flight between Beijing and Budapest by Air China playing a key role. The flight operates four times a week, carrying 10-12 tonnes of cargo in the cargo hold of the airliner.

Almost the entire cargo capacity has been booked by Hungarian exporters transporting primarily electronics and pharmaceutical products to China, exceeding the volume of Chinese goods brought to Hungary by one quarter.

Ningbo International Airport handled 113,000 tonnes of air cargo in 2014, and plans to increase cargo volume to 500,000 tonnes by 2020.

Maersk to raise Asia-Europe rates US\$1,000/TEU from December 1



THE world's biggest container shipping company, Maersk Line, will levy a US\$1,000 per TEU Asia-Europe rate increase from December 1, the company announced.

If it sticks, the hike would be a 339 per cent increase from current rates. But container rates tend to rise in large increments before slipping back in the face of overcapacity in the market.

Two DHL parcels with explosive materials seized in Cairo Airport



TWO DHL parcels containing explosive materials were seized on Tuesday at Cairo International Airport, Air Cargo World reported quoting Egyptian news organisation, Ahram Online.

An official told Egyptian news website Aswat Masriya that the parcels were destined for the US through London. A source at the airport said the parcels weighed about 22 pounds.

The explosive material was detected as the parcels passed through the X-ray scans. Upon further investigation, it was confirmed that they were explosives. New X-ray security scanners have been installed in the departure area at the Cairo airport.

The parcels are under heavy security until authorities can identify the origin of the materials.

Following the crash of Metrojet flight 9268 at the end of last month over the Sinai Peninsula, which killed all 224 passengers on board, Egypt Air has been told to cease carrying belly cargo on flights to London or to US destinations.

In addition the US National Security Administration (NSA) has banned belly cargo on flights to the US from Egypt. Under the new rules, carriers flying cargo bound for the United States from Egypt must now be quarantined for 48 hours upon arrival and before transits on domestic flights from local airports.

According to a report from the Egyptian Independent, exporters in Egypt have had mixed reactions to the additional restrictions. Some exporters found the decision "normal" in light of the airliner tragedy. However, others said the restrictions are a form of economic pressure and demand to see similar security measures placed on imports arriving in Egypt's ports

Iran's Shahid Rajaei port fast becoming a major hub for international container lines

IRAN's southern Shahid Rajaei port, located 23 kilometres west of Bandar Abbas, the capital city of southern Iranian province of Hormozgan, has turned into a major hub in recent months for shipping and tranship activities with the suitable facilities provided by the country's Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization to accommodate international vessels calling at the facility.

The port is equipped with 18 gantry cranes and 41 docks, which make it the biggest and most modern container port in Iran.



Offering bulk discounts to shipping companies, has reduced the final cost of entry of commodities into Iranian port, making it more economical compared to other Persian Gulf ports

CMA CGM's Andromeda was the first container ship to berth at the port in August with 11,500 TEU of containers



DHL Express Romania plans to invest between EUR10 million (US\$10.6 million) and EUR15 million in building a new air cargo terminal in Bucharest, Hungary.

Construction of the new terminal that will cover an area measuring 15,000-25,000 square metres is anticipated to start soon, reported Romania-Insider.Com.

Bucharest accounts for 60-70 per cent of the company's volume in the south of the country, said managing director Daniel Kearvell of DHL Express Romania

