

Alex Yong

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GM Thailand opts for CEVA to provide logistics

GLOBAL logistics provider CEVA Logistics has expanded its activities with General Motors outside the US by entering into a new contract with General Motors (Thailand).

A CEVA statement pointed out the arrangement is the first logistics contract between the firm and GM Thailand.

Matthew Stimpson, business development director for CEVA, said: "General Motors is the biggest automotive company in the world and we are delighted to have been appointed. Their operation in Thailand is extensive and thanks to our proprietary

technology we will deliver greater efficiencies within General Motors' supply chain.



Canada to spend US\$368m to boost border cargo security

CANADA is planning to spend more than US\$368 million over the next five years to protect its border from terrorist, economic and environmental threats, Associated Press reported.

The news agency report said Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day announced the initiative at the border crossing between Windsor and Detroit, the conduit for one-third of the \$1.6 billion in daily trade that passes between Canada and the US.

"I sometimes surprise my American friends when I remind them that the trade that comes across the Ambassador Bridge in total is greater than all of the trade that exists between the United States and Japan," Mr Day told a news conference.

The report said that experts have long said Canada should tighten security along its side of the 4,000-mile border, especially since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The bulk of the money, \$337 million, is for the electronic-manifest programme, which allows for computer-automated risk assessments of cargo shipments before they reach Canada.

The 18,000 trucks that cross the US-Canada border each day, as well as all rail, air and marine cargo carriers, will eventually be required to file electronic manifests before their shipments arrive.

The programme will ensure that background checks on crew and risk assessments of cargo are in the hands of the Canada Border Services Agency 24 hours in advance of the arrival of shipments by sea; and several hours ahead of rail, highway and air cargo.

Mr Day did not give a precise date of when the electronic manifests would become mandatory at the 119 border crossings.

Another \$20 million has been earmarked for business leaders and emergency responders to plan for the immediate resumption of trade across the border in the event of a terrorist attack, medical pandemic or natural disaster.

Another \$10 million will expand the existing Partners in Protection Programme, a voluntary scheme in which businesses and their employees help border agents detect and prevent drugs and weapons smuggling.



Schwarzenegger's goods movement plan pleases Oakland

AUTHORITIES at the Port of Oakland have welcomed Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Goods Movement Action Plan (GMAP) which they hail as a "very significant step in addressing California's transportation infrastructure needs".

Jerry Bridges, executive director of the Port of Oakland, said: "We commend the governor and his staff for their leadership in producing a comprehensive proposal and we applaud their overall goal to invest our state's resources in our major goods movement infrastructure."

The GMAP will help guide the decisions of the California Transportation Commission and the California Air Resources Board as they award funding from the recently passed infrastructure bond, a statement from the port authority said.

"Funding from the bonds will enable the port to finance us to move goods quickly, reliably and safely," said Anthony Batarse, president of the Oakland Board of Port Commissioners.

Several port projects designed to speed the movement of goods in California have been endorsed by the report, including the 7th Street Grade Separation and Outer Harbour Intermodal Terminal at the Oakland seaport, the Martinez Subdivision Rail Improvements, as well as enhancements to the Tehachapi Trade Corridor and the Central Corridor over the Sierra Nevada Range.

These projects are intended to speed up the flow of international trade through Oakland, resulting in reduced congestion and cleaner air.



Shanghai Pudong Airport ranks 7th globally

CARGO and mail throughput at Shanghai Pudong International Airport reached 2.16 million tons in 2006, ranking the airport seventh in the world and third in Asia, Xinhua reports.

Shanghai's two airports, Pudong and Hongqiao, together handled 409,000 planes in 2006, representing an increase of 9.21 per cent.

Currently there are 64 domestic and international airlines operating regular services from Shanghai, with the flight network covering 169 cities at home and abroad.



Hankyu, Hanshin continue integrating airfreight operations

FOLLOWING the success of an earlier merger, there are reports that Yomiuri

Shimbun Hankyu Express International, affiliated with Hankyu Hanshin Holdings, and the Hanshin Group subsidiary, Hanshin Air Cargo, will merge in 2009 at the earliest.

Integration will bring together the firms' international airfreight businesses through restructuring, an event that will mark the second time the companies under the umbrella of Hankyu and Hanshin have reorganised their businesses this way.

The Daily Yomiuri newspaper said the two companies will begin talks in March to pave the way for joint operations, which are expected to include collection, delivery, customs procedures, as well as finding solutions to integrate their IT systems.

Hankyu Express International was said to have 6.5 per cent of the market from April to September in 2006, ranking the firm fourth in Japan.

Hanshin Air Cargo, established in 1999 as a separate entity by Hanshin Electric Railway, specialises in transporting freight to and from Europe and Asia. It was ranked 13th with a market share of 1.9 per cent. Collectively, the two companies control an 8.4 per cent share of the Japanese market.



CARGO 2000 and IATA unite to simplify air cargo data exchange

THE International Air Transport Association and Cargo 2000 are joining forces to build a common airfreight industry standard to unify electronic data interchange.

Their two initiatives are expected to complement each other as IATA e-freight focuses on simplicity and efficiency while Cargo 2000 concentrates on quality standards.

"Cargo 2000 is excited at the prospect of joining the IATA e-freight programme and building the 'Quality Roadmap' that will present a win-win situation for the industry," said Cargo 2000 chairman Mick Fountain.

The objective is to simplify and implement best practice by using and providing accurate and timely data in a paper-free environment to facilitate the movement of goods throughout the supply chain, said a joint statement from the two organisations.

The IATA e-freight Message Improvement Programme (MIP) will become an integral part of Cargo 2000 and constitute an extra quality measurement for all Cargo 2000 members. IATA e-freight MIP aims to increase the quality and numbers of electronic messages exchanged between industry stakeholders. It initially focuses on the electronic form of the master air waybill (FWB) and the house manifest (FHL).

IATA e-freight, in turn, will work with Cargo 2000 to ensure that all e-freight processes, defined during the pilot phase, are aligned with the Cargo 2000 practices already in place.

"IATA e-freight will learn from and build on the success of Cargo 2000. In turn, Cargo 2000 and IATA e-freight participants will benefit from common simplified processes, improved customer service and a reduction in costs resulting from a streamlined and efficient paper-free environment," said IATA global cargo chief Aleks Popovich.

Both programmes will ultimately support implementation of IATA e-freight and Cargo 2000 Phase 3, which involves shipment planning and tracking at the piece level, together with document tracking.



Tianjin Consol adds new direct service to Japan

TIANJIN Consol Shipping Line has boosted its direct service from Tianjin to Japan by putting on a new weekly run, launched on January 7.

The company said in a statement that the new service brings to seven the total number of weekly services from the Xingang port area in Tianjin to Japan, calling at Yokohama, Tokyo and Nagoya.



Schenker-Seino, BAX Global join forces in Japan

SCHENKER-SEINO Co. and BAX Global Japan completed their merger at the beginning of the month with the goal of becoming one of the industry's leading logistics players.

The combined company operates under the name Schenker-Seino, employing 460 staff at 23 locations throughout Japan to provide multi-modal freight, logistics, value-added and supply chain management services.

Schenker-Seino is a joint venture between Germany's Schenker AG and Japan's Seino Holdings.

Both parent companies have been active in the Japanese market for over 40 years with customers in the hi-tech, automotive, consumer and chemicals industries, a Schenker statement explained.

The services provided by Schenker-Seino include air and sea freight, land transportation, customs clearances, IT solutions, projects, fairs, events and household removals.

This latest development comes as Schenker and BAX Global continue to integrate forces worldwide. The joint organisation employs about 50,000 staff at 1,500 locations in 150 countries. Schenker is a part of DB Logistics, the transportation and

logistics division of Deutsche Bahn.



Zhenjiang port's box throughput rises to 100,000 TEU in 2006

THE Yangtze River port of Zhenjiang handled 35 million tons of cargo in 2006, including a record 100,000 TEU, Xinhua reports.

This comes after the mainland China port established a container shipping network connecting it with ports in the US, Europe and the Oceania region by introducing new feeder services to major coastal ports in China over the last year, the report explained.

Strong performance was also attributed to the opening of the third development phase within the Dagang port area in 2006.

Zhenjiang port acts as an intermodal transit centre owing to its geographical position at the confluence of the Yangtze River and the Grand Canal. The port can accommodate 30,000-ton vessels throughout the year.



Inland shipping expected to draw big investment over 15 years

INLAND waterways are expected to play a bigger role in the transportation of freight across the country in the coming 15 years, said Li Shenglin, Minister of Communications, in a China Daily report.

At present rail and road carries the biggest cargo share, but if authorities have their way, this will change as they intend to invest heavily in upgrading inland waterways infrastructure.

"The Chinese government welcomes foreign capital and social funds to invest in inland waterway projects," said Mr Li at a recent international inland shipping forum.

The central government alone has put aside CNY15 billion (US\$1.9 billion) to improve inland waterways from 2006 to 2010.

The ministry is reported to be preparing to dredge waterways to make them accessible to cargo vessels on the Yangtze, the Pearl and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal.

The newspaper said that as a result of these efforts, the length of high-grade channels that can accommodate 1,000-ton vessels will increase considerably.

Improvements have also been earmarked for ports in Chongqing, Wuhan, Changsha and Nanchang, including new berths to handle containers, ore, coal, petroleum and food to meet rising demand.

The newspaper report noted that the benefits of inland shipping include the ability to carry large amounts of cargo at a lower cost and in a more environmentally friendly manner than other modes of transport.

In 2006, the inland shipping industry attracted CNY23 billion (\$2.9 billion) in investment, according to a senior official cited in the report.



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