

LIVRO GLOBAL SHIPPING NEWS

1. Suez Canal tests new lane section to boost traffic

The Suez Canal has successfully tested a new lane that allows ships to travel in both directions along a 10-km stretch in its southern section, the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) announced Saturday. CA Chairman Osama Rabie said two ships used the new channel after dredging work was completed. He called the project a “major qualitative leap” that will significantly improve the canal’s capacity and efficiency. Rabie added the lane will help ships navigate strong currents and weather conditions. Transportation expert Mohamed Shehata explained that the extension provides a crucial backup route in case of accidents or disruptions in the main canal. “This added layer of resilience will ensure the continued flow of global trade even in unforeseen circumstances,” he told Xinhua. Shehata added that the expansion is a strategic move to prepare for increased shipping traffic as stability improves in the Red Sea region. This news comes after Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi revealed on Thursday that Suez Canal revenues dropped by more than 60 percent in 2024 due to regional issues. He said Egypt lost about 7 billion U.S. dollars in revenue due to problems in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait, which have disrupted shipping and global trade.

Source: <https://www.macaubusiness.com/> 30.12.2024

2. Direct shipping route linking east China port with Europe opens

HANGZHOU, Dec. 30 (Xinhua) -- A cargo ship loaded with over 1,700 TEU containers of lithium batteries and e-commerce goods set sail on Monday from east China's Ningbo port for Wilhelmshaven in Germany, marking the opening of a "China-Europe express" shipping route. The Ningbo-Wilhelmshaven direct route will reduce transport time to 26 days, saving 12 days compared to the same route with multiple stops, according to Sun Xuejun, chairman of Zhejiang Seaport Logistics Group Co., Ltd. Upon arrival in Wilhelmshaven, goods can be distributed and transported to Northern Europe and the Baltic Sea coastal areas through waterborne shipping, to Western Europe, including France and Belgium, by land, and even further to Central and Eastern Europe, such as Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland, within 30 days. “The launch of the express shipping route offers Chinese lithium battery companies an excellent opportunity to save on transport time and costs, thereby enhancing supply chain resilience," said Ma Quanlin, a senior manager with Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd. (CATL), China's leading battery maker.

Source: <https://english.news.cn/> 30.12.2024

3. Water transport workers call off strike after 45 hours

The water transport workers have called off an indefinite strike they had enforced demanding justice for seven murders on a vessel in the River Meghna and enhanced security after 45 hours following the government’s assurance to meet their demands and requests from the shipping department. The strike that began at midnight past Thursday ended Saturday night after discussions between labour leaders and government representatives, officials and workers who attended the meeting said. Commodore Mohammad Maksud Alam, director general of the Department of Shipping, said that the workers’ demands, including compensation for the families of the murdered workers, were addressed. By Sunday morning, loading and unloading operations from mother vessels to lighters at the Chattogram Port’s outer anchorage resumed, Maksud Alam said. Shah Alam, president of the Bangladesh Water Transport Workers Federation, said, ‘We enforced the strike demanding a proper investigation and trial for the murders in the ship, compensation for the families of the deceased sailors, and enhanced security measures.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/> 30.12.2024

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4. China Announces Tariff Adjustments to Boost Imports and Encourage Sustainable Development

Beijing has announced strategic changes to its import tariffs, targeting key materials to stimulate economic growth and support environmental initiatives. The Ministry of Finance made this revelation over the weekend, stating that the new adjustments will come into effect on January 1. According to the Ministry, provisional import tariffs lower than the most-favoured-nation (MFN) rates will apply to 935 items. These include reductions on ethane and certain recycled copper and aluminum raw materials. Such a move aligns with China's broader goal of advancing green and low-carbon development. Data from the IndexBox platform indicates that China's import market for aluminum alone has shown substantial growth potential, propelled by sustainable industrial practices and increased demand for recycled materials. Additionally, the tariff reforms will see hikes on commodities such as molasses and sugar-containing pre-mixed powders. Conversely, reductions will apply to items like cyclic olefin polymers, ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers, and automatic transmissions specifically designed for special-purpose vehicles, such as fire trucks and repair vehicles.

Source: <https://www.globaltrademag.com/> 30.12.2024

5. After amphibious ship, China now launches huge explorer ship that can break ice and has a range of 17,261 miles; here are top features, specifications and all details

China has unveiled its first-ever domestically developed deep-sea multi-functional exploration ship, the Tansuo-3 (Exploration-3). This monumental ship has officially entered service in Sanya City, located in the southern province of Hainan. With a remarkable range of 17,261 miles and the ability to break ice, Tansuo-3 is poised to enhance China's deep-sea exploration capabilities, joining the ranks of other icebreakers like the Xuelong, Xuelong 2, and Jidi. Tansuo-3 comes equipped with advanced features, including the capacity to break through ice and support deep-sea research in challenging environments. This ability makes it suitable for operations in polar regions and underwater excavations. The ship is fitted with world-class scientific tools, including deep-sea sonar, crewed and robotic submersible systems, and specialized underwater excavation gear. It will also carry the Shenhai Yongshi (Deep Sea Warrior) for regular scientific research missions. Measuring 104 meters long with a displacement of 10,000 tons, the Tansuo-3 is built to handle tough maritime conditions. The ship features a 6-meter by 4.8-meter moon pool for conducting research on floating ice.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/> 01.01.2025

6. CIS acquires Acuitive's AcuAudit

Global provider of freight audit and payment solutions Cass Information Systems (CIS) – not to be confused with IATA's CASS settlement platform – has acquired ocean and airfreight audit platform AcuAudit from Acuitive Solutions. AcuAudit is a pre-payment global freight bill audit module that receives data inputs from carriers, 3PLs and forwarders and then automatically validates the correct invoices and isolates discrepancies. The module prompts carrier self-correction prior to payment and aims to reduce the time and cost of administration. Missouri, US-based CIS said the platform aims to provide shippers with a "fast and accurate understanding of landed costs at the product level". "The Acuitive team has built a truly exceptional solution to support the advanced needs of global shippers," said Tony Urban, president of Cass's freight audit and payment group. "Today, with a best-in-class solution for every mode as well as full global coverage, Cass offers the most robust freight audit and payment offering worldwide. We are the sole global provider for large shippers with complex transportation operations across all modes.

Source: <https://www.aircargonews.net/> 03 / 01 / 2025