

WAVE.



05

LOGISTICS: THE DRIVING FORCE OF UK ECONOMY
HIGHLIGHTING UPCOMING CHALLENGES AND TACKLING THE SKILLS GAP.

09

FOCUS ON HOWDEN
ONE OF THE MOST WELL-POSITIONED FACILITIES THE COMPANY HAS TO OFFER.

10

LEADING THE WAY IN PORT TECHNOLOGY
PD PORTS RECENTLY PLAYED HOST TO OVER 50 REPRESENTATIVES FROM PORTS ALL OVER EUROPE.

12

TALKING BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST
WHAT DOES THE DEVOLUTION REALLY MEAN FOR THE NORTH?



PAGE 07

GETTING HITACHI ON THE RIGHT TRACK

IN THIS ISSUE

- 02**
NEWS IN BRIEF
- 03**
NEWS ROUND UP
- 05**
LOGISTICS: THE DRIVING FORCE OF UK ECONOMY
- 07**
GETTING HITACHI ON THE RIGHT TRACK
- 09**
FOCUS ON HOWDEN
- 10**
LEADING THE WAY IN PORT TECHNOLOGY
- 11**
JDR EXPAND WORLD-CLASS FACILITY AT PORT OF HARTLEPOOL
- 12**
TALKING BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST
- 13**
IN THE COMMUNITY
- 14**
CELEBRATING THE HIGH TIDE FOUNDATION'S SUCCESS SO FAR
- 15**
IN YOUR SHOES

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IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH ABOUT ANY OF THE STORIES FEATURED IN WAVE, PLEASE CONTACT THE PR & COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.
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WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF WAVE.

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE LAST 12 MONTHS HAVE PROVEN TO BE VERY CHALLENGING, ESPECIALLY IN THE WAKE OF THE CLOSURE OF THE SSI STEELWORKS ON TEESIDE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO REDEPLOY PEOPLE TO OTHER AREAS WITHIN THE BUSINESS WITH LIMITED FURTHER JOB LOSSES. OUR AIM IS TO MOVE FORWARD A STRONGER AND LEANER BUSINESS AS A RESULT.

There are a number of positive developments taking shape across the business that will involve new challenges and present opportunities to drive the business forward including the integration of our Humber-based businesses following the acquisition of Groveport last year.

2016 will see the realignment of activity on the Humber providing greater operational efficiencies and delivering an enhanced customer experience.

Elsewhere in the business we have seen the expansion of offshore activity at Hartlepool and increased demand on our rail services at Teesport to serve the North of the UK and Scotland.

A lot of time and effort has been spent championing the newly established Logistics Academy, which has gained a tremendous amount of coverage by highlighting some of the challenges the industry currently faces during the Road Haulage Association's National Lorry Week back in October. We have touched upon the national driver shortage in our logistics article on page 5, explaining the initial impact this could have on the industry and the public. We also talk about our new partnership with Hitachi, handling rail cars direct from Japan on page 7.

Through our work throughout the community, we continue to support the growth of the High Tide Foundation programmes to help support the region's young people, ensuring that they are aware of the employment opportunities on their doorstep.

By increasing visibility of what maritime related businesses do and the types of job roles that are available, we can pave the way for a positive future for our young people and our business. This activity also extends across the Humber as we further develop our relationship with Business in the Community through the Business Class programme.

On a lasting and extremely positive note, we are absolutely delighted to say that the first High Tide Foundation annual fundraising ball raised over £24k, which leads me to announce that we have set a date for this year, Friday 23rd September. Read more about the first ball on page 14 and find out how you can attend.


 David Robinson
 Group CEO, PD Ports



NEWS IN BRIEF



MILKSHAKE MEETS THE HARBOUR MASTER

Recently, Teesport had special visitors filming for Channel 5's weekday morning children's TV show, Milkshake. The crew, including presenter, Jen Pringle, came to film promotional segments for new episodes of Toot the Tiny Tugboat, a maritime-based cartoon show. Throughout the day, the team followed around Assistant Harbour Master, Chris Stocks visiting the Harbour Office, taking a trip to see the Svitzer tug boats and meeting a Pilot. [w](#)



SPREADING THE WORD

Geoff Lippitt, Business Development Director, has recently been speaking at a number of different conferences. In September, at the Short Sea-Euro Conference in Bremen, Geoff led a presentation about investments made in rail operations at Teesport and how the resulting growth opens up opportunities and increases business for the short sea market. Following this, in October, Geoff promoted the benefits of portcentric logistics at the fourth Intermodal Port Conference in Nottingham, hosted by DB Schenker.

To keep up to date with events that PD Ports is attending, make sure to follow @PDPorts on twitter. [w](#)



HIGHLIGHTING THE SKILLS GAP AMONGST LOCAL BUSINESSES

We attended the Tees Valley Business Club in September to speak to its members about the skills gap currently faced by businesses on Teesside and how we all can help tackle this.

Accompanied by Jim French, PD Portcentric Logistics Director, and Kevin Shakesheff, Chairman of High Tide, Kirsten Donkin, PD Ports' PR and Communication Manager, took to the stage. The Tees Valley Business Club brings together businesses with the aim of helping them grow; providing new contact opportunities and sharing pertinent business information in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

At the event, Kirsten spoke about PD Ports and the issues currently facing the business, namely an ageing workforce and the critical importance of making young people aware of the types of jobs available in the maritime industry. Her presentation included the ways in which PD Ports and other businesses on Teesside can help to tackle these issues and the growing skills gap including promoting apprenticeships and other routes to employment.

Following this presentation, Jim French highlighted the skills gap within the logistics sector and how in conjunction with Stockton Riverside College and others, we've developed a Logistics Academy (read more about this on page 5).

Lastly, Kevin spoke about the High Tide Foundation and the great work the charity is doing to give young people an insight into the businesses around the River Tees and the opportunities that are available. [w](#)



EXHIBITING AT OFFSHORE EUROPE 2015

In September, PD Ports exhibited at Offshore Europe 2015 in Aberdeen. Amongst other members of NOF Energy, we had the chance to meet a number of industry professionals and engage with them to discuss their renewable energy needs. [w](#)

RUNNING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

PD Ports' employees took part in the Great North Run for the fourth year in a row.

A TEAM OF 15 RUNNERS, INCLUDING EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, TOOK ON THE HALF MARATHON AND RAISED OVER £4.5K.

This money will be donated to the Butterwick Hospice to continue to support its great work. [w](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

During the Christmas period, trucks from around the UK deliver 8 million real Christmas trees, 10 million turkeys, 25 million Christmas puddings, 35 million bottles of wine, 250 million bottles of beer and 9875 tonnes of sprouts!



NEWS ROUND UP

LARGEST VESSEL OF ITS KIND AT TEESPORT

In September, PD Ports welcomed the arrival of a new Ro-Ro service direct from Japan to Teesport by global shipping line, "K" Line.

THE NEW ROUTE USES "K" LINE'S NEWLY ANNOUNCED 7500-UNIT RO-RO VESSELS TO TRANSPORT HITACHI RAIL CARS FROM THE PORT OF TOKUYAMA-KUDAMATSU, JAPAN TO TEESPORT.

The vessels are the largest of their kind to arrive at Teesport, at a length of just under 200m and 75,216 GWT, and will allow exporters of project cargoes to connect directly from Teesport with "K" Line's global network and strengthen the region's important trading links. **W**



FURTHER INVESTMENT GROWING CONTAINER VOLUMES AT TEESPORT

PD Ports has demonstrated its commitment to supporting Teesport's continued growth in container volumes by investing in three new Rubber Tyre Gantry cranes (RTGs).

THESE SPECIALIST CRANES HAVE BEEN ORDERED FROM LIEBHERR CONTAINER CRANES, WHO HAS OVER 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN CRANE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE.

In the past five years, PD Ports has invested over £60M at Teesport in developing, upgrading and enhancing capacity to meet the demands of its customers and position the Port as the Northern Gateway for containerised goods destined for the North of the UK. As a whole, Teesport has experienced uplift in container volumes of 13% year on year since 2007, and the Port handled 420,000 TEU in 2014; thus making it the second largest container port in the North.

“ David Robinson, PD Ports' Group Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are committed to continuing to invest in Teesport to ensure we have the right infrastructure to support the growth of our business and those of our customers. Our investment in leading edge technology and infrastructure will enable Teesport to offer a quicker and more cost-effective route to market."

“ Speaking about the order, Liebherr Container Cranes' Managing Director, Pat O'Leary, said "Liebherr has been a commercial partner of PD Ports for over 25 years and during that time has supplied a number of ship to shore cranes to Teesport. We are delighted to continue this partnership with the signing of a framework agreement for RTGs and the supply of these state-of-the-art machines to the Port. The combination of productivity technologies and numerous safety systems which are features of these RTGs will allow for increased box handling capacity and continued safety for personnel and equipment at Teesport." **W**



NORTHERN POWERHOUSE MINISTER VISITS TEESPORT

The Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse, James Wharton, visited Teesport in September to view the recent investments made at the Port. During the Port tour, PD Ports' CEO, David Robinson, showed the MP for Stockton South over £60M worth of investment spent developing, upgrading and enhancing capacity to meet the demands of its customers in the past five years.

As the second largest container port in the north of the UK, Teesport has experienced uplift in container volumes of 13% year on year since 2007, further strengthening its position as the Northern Gateway for containerised goods destined for the North of England and Scotland.

“ David Robinson, PD Ports' CEO, said of the visit: "We were delighted to show Mr Wharton around Teesport and share with him our vision, as well as our plans for further growth and our expectations from the Northern Powerhouse movement in support of this."

During the visit, Mr Wharton spoke about regional regeneration through the Northern Powerhouse which aims to enhance and improve connectivity and support growth for businesses across the region, including Teesport.

"A well connected and more integrated transport infrastructure is vital to the long-term sustainability of our business and those across the North of the country. Such investment through the Northern Powerhouse will drive jobs, help deliver international trade, attract inward investment and boost economic growth," concluded Mr Robinson. **W**

EUROPEAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT LEARNS ABOUT INVESTMENT AT TEESPORT

European Member of Parliament for North East England, Paul Brannen, visited Teesport in August to see the investment made and hear about our vision for the future. He had a trip on the harbour launch to see the industrial platform that dominates the River Tees with Jerry Hopkinson, Managing Director – Bulks and Ports, and talk about the region's development. **W**



NEW GENERAL MANAGER ON BOARD TO SPARK GROWTH

On 1st September, PD Ports welcomed on board a new general manager business development, Roy Merryweather, as part of its growth plans to generate further new business in the Company's bulk handling operations at its North-east based port, Teesport.

Roy joins PD Ports from Peel Ports where he was employed for over four years as group business development manager. In his new role at Teesport, Roy is responsible for developing supply chain solutions for customers importing and exporting dry bulk cargo; bringing with him over 15 years' experience specialising in steel and forest products sectors. **W**



LOGISTICS: THE DRIVING FORCE OF UK ECONOMY

AS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY EXPANDS AND THE BURGEONING DEMAND FROM E-COMMERCE IS FIT TO BURST, LOGISTICS IS FAST BECOMING ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. HOWEVER, IT'S DISCOURAGING TO HEAR THAT MANY DO NOT KNOW THE MEANING OF LOGISTICS, NOR HOW MANY OPPORTUNITIES THERE ARE WITHIN THE SECTOR.

Logistics is, by definition, the planning process and implementation of efficient and effective storage and transportation of raw materials, inventory, goods and services from warehouse to consumer. This network of producing, handling or distributing a specific product is referred to as the 'supply chain' and is a vital process for organisations across the globe.

The logistics industry is worth £96 billion per year in the UK alone, which is made up of 196,000 companies, all moving and sorting products from A to B across the world. If you look around you, virtually every single thing that you see will have been handled by the logistics industry. An industry which is both divergent and impressive; and is the driving force of the economy.

The sector as a whole, is in fact, the 4th biggest employer in this country. However, one of the most fundamental issues that the industry has to overcome is the pure lack of visibility it has to outward society. People, particularly younger generations, are simply unaware that this thriving industry exists at all.

The way that new technologies and distribution approaches are changing the face of the industry, only means that the need for logistics is going to be greater. E-commerce logistics are facing huge transformational shifts due to the way in which we as humans consume goods.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL, CREATES MORE DEMAND, AS WELL AS THE RISE OF NEXT-DAY DELIVERY AND THE CONSTANT SHIPPING OF PRODUCTS FROM OVERSEAS.

However, the logistics industry, which is quite literally the backbone of the UK economy, is being challenged with an unprecedented driver shortage. This is a real concern, given that within the logistics landscape, the single largest segment is the road haulage sector; which on its own is worth £42 billion a year.

At present, there is a monumental skills shortage when it comes to professional drivers on UK roads, with the current shortfall sitting at a colossal 40,000. But, there may be light at the end of the tunnel, as the Freight Transport Association is now working to encourage young people to consider opportunities within the logistics industry. Running a three-year initiative named 'Think Logistics', they aim to target students within the 16-19 age bracket to develop their skills in this booming industry.

Currently, around 2.3 million are employed in logistics, which is one in twelve people. And as it stands, the UK logistics industry needs around 450,000 recruits in the next five years, and a massive 1.2m by the year 2020, 80% of which are to replace people leaving. Shockingly, the average age of a HGV driver in our country is 55; 60% are over the age of 60 and only 9% are under 25.

According to a report published recently by a cross-party Parliamentary transport committee for freight transport,

entitled 'Barriers to Youth Employment in the Freight Transport Sector', a fifth of the current LGV workforce will reach retirement age in the next ten years. That's 75,000 drivers; which does not include those that will leave the profession due to a revoke in license or for a new career. Now that they have made a reduction in the age limit for an HGV license to 18, it has now increased the opportunity for more young people to follow careers in logistics.

The Road Haulage Association, that represent UK hauliers, who between them operate over 100,000 HGVs, has recently written to the Prime Minister David Cameron, demanding government intervention to help with the chronic truck driver shortage, which they also argue is having a profound affect on the UK supply chain. They've pointed out that the industry needs a cash injection of around £150 million in driver training, otherwise economic recovery is in risk of slowing down severely and the future of the UK haulage industry will be in dire straits.

PROMISINGLY, MR CAMERON HAS PLEDGED TO WORK WITH ROAD HAULAGE COMPANIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ON AN INDUSTRY-LED SOLUTION, EXPLORING THE CORRECT LEVEL OF ACCESS AND FUNDING SUPPORT FOR TRAINING.

To help engage upcoming talent in the North East, Stockton Riverside College, with the backing of PD Ports' logistics division, PD Portcentric Logistics, is joining forces with employers across the region. A Logistics Academy has been launched in conjunction with NETA Training Group, the aforementioned 'Think Logistics', and national charity, Career Ready. This matrimony of minds allows us to work together to bridge the skills gap, helping to tackle the skill shortage in the region.

“ Jim French, PD Portcentric Logistics Director and national chairman of the Road Haulage Association, said of the Academy: "This is a great opportunity to help raise awareness of the many careers in logistics and we are only scratching the surface. We face a great difficulty in attracting young people in to the industry, and we hope to change this over the next three years."

"The logistics sector plays a hugely important role in all industries and is one of the key areas of the Tees Valley's LEP. The implementation of a logistics academy is a major step forward in raising the awareness of the industry to young people. By working directly with other local employers, we aim to identify the sector's needs and respond accordingly.

"As we know it, logistics is one of the most important career fields in the entire world, and without it, society would cease to function and food shortages would cause chaos globally. Urging youngsters to emerge into the logistics world is important, and as an industry we can help to raise awareness of the opportunities within it, as well as the current issues it's facing. **W**

£150M

CASH INJECTION NEEDED FOR DRIVING TRAINING IN THE INDUSTRY.

1.2M

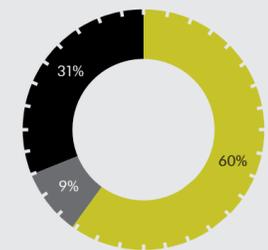
RECRUITS ARE NEEDED IN THE UK LOGISTICS INDUSTRY BY THE YEAR 2020.

£42BN

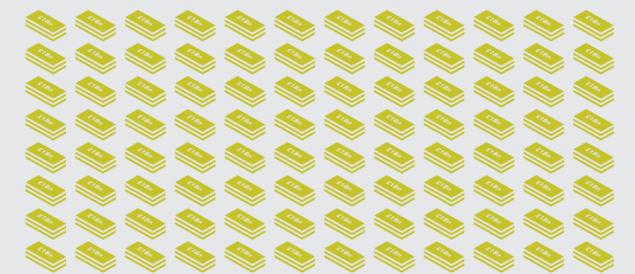
A YEAR, IS THE CURRENT WORTH OF THE ROAD HAULAGE SECTOR ON IT'S OWN.

AGE OF HGV DRIVERS IN THE UK

- OVER 60
- 25-60
- UNDER 25



CURRENTLY, **ONE IN TWELVE PEOPLE ARE EMPLOYED IN LOGISTICS**, WHICH IS AROUND 2.3 MILLION.



THE LOGISTICS INDUSTRY IS WORTH **£96 BILLION** PER YEAR IN THE UK ALONE

NATIONAL LORRY WEEK

26-31 OCTOBER, 2015

A MULTITUDE OF EVENTS WERE HELD ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO ENSURE THAT THE INDUSTRY AND ITS DRIVERS WERE GIVEN THE RECOGNITION THEY DESERVED.

These events included the RHA-hosted reception in parliament for MPs and ministers to hear first-hand about the vital role the industry plays in the British economy.

Hauliers were also asked to display a 'Love the Lorry' sticker on their vehicles to promote the events.

RHA chief executive, Richard Burnett, said that 85% of everything eaten, worn, bought and used is moved, at some point, on the back of a UK-registered lorry.

"Without us, supermarket shelves would be empty, homes would not be built and manufacturing plants would grind to a halt.

"We have a huge impact on the lives of everyone in Britain but sometimes that positive contribution is overlooked."



DID YOU KNOW?

Our 500,000 sq. ft. warehousing facility in Felixstowe is the equivalent of 6 and a half football pitches!



GETTING HITACHI ON THE RIGHT TRACK

AS THE UK FINDS ITSELF UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO IMPROVE RAIL LINKS FOR FREIGHT AND PASSENGER MOVEMENTS, INVESTMENT IN QUICKER AND MORE EFFICIENT RAIL SYSTEMS IS CRITICAL TO SUPPORTING GROWTH WITHIN THE ECONOMY.

PD Ports will handle the majority of Hitachi Transport System Europe's (HTSE) rail car imports destined for Hitachi's Rail Vehicle Manufacturing Facility in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham.

The train body shells are coming into Teesport via a new Ro-Ro service direct from Japan by global shipping line, "K" Line; some body shells are also being brought into the Port by road where they will be stored prior to onward transportation by road vehicles to the facility.

The service, which started in September, saw "K" Line's newly announced 7500-unit Ro-Ro vessels ship the body shells from the Port of Tokuyama-Kudamatsu, Japan to Teesport. A journey which covered some 12,000 nautical miles over 35 days.

Once at Teesport, the body shells are towed from the vessel in a specific order and then manoeuvred using bespoke lifting equipment designed by PD Ports in partnership with HTSE.

The body shells, which measure 26 metres in length, are then placed onto vehicles before being transported to a secure storage area at the Port.

EACH VESSEL WILL CARRY FIVE OR NINE CAR TRAINS WITH A MAXIMUM OF 18 BODY SHELLS IMPORTED PER SHIPMENT.

“ Geoff Lippitt, PD Ports' Business Development Director, commented: "To be an integral part of the Hitachi supply chain is a role we are very proud to undertake. The importance of Hitachi Rail in the wider economic context of the North-east is of tremendous significance and will provide a much needed boost to the region."**”**

THE JOURNEY COVERED SOME **12,000 NAUTICAL MILES** OVER **35 DAYS**



MAXIMUM OF **18 BODY SHELLS** IMPORTED PER SHIPMENT



EACH VESSEL WILL CARRY **FIVE OR NINE BODY SHELLS**



A BODY SHELL MEASURES **26 METRES** IN LENGTH



FOCUS ON HOWDEN

OFFERING A MULTITUDE OF SERVICES, THE PORT OF HOWDEN HAS TO BE ONE OF THE MOST WELL-POSITIONED FACILITIES THAT THE COMPANY HAS TO OFFER. AND WITH DEVELOPMENTAL PLANS TO GROW OUR MARKET SHARE WITHIN THE AGRI-BULK SECTOR, WE ARE GEARING UP FOR A 10% YEAR-ON-YEAR EXPANSION.

Strategically placed, PD Ports' site at Howden is just 50 miles west of the Humber Estuary, and is one of the most inland-sited ports in the entirety of the British Isles. Additionally, as the site is situated close to the main M62 Trans-pennine motorway, it has arterial links to Liverpool, Hull, Manchester and Leeds which intersect with the M1. Not only does this position the facility with quick routes to the key industrial markets of the North, West and Midland regions of the country, it also makes certain that the Port is both a central hub for the most cost-effective methods of distributing cargo in the UK and overseas, and the ideal prospect for potential clients.

Totalling 30 acres in size, the site itself hosts 13 sheds and 300,000 sq. ft. of covered warehousing and open storage area; as well as three berths that are able to accommodate large vessels of up to 3500 DWT with a maximum beam of 14 metres.

Offering a versatile and flexible list of services such as processing, warehousing, ships agency, jetty management, stevedoring and freight forwarding, the Port has strength in specialist bulk handling, which encompasses tanker loading and bagging services, as well as being a designated forest products and steel terminal.

PD Ports currently has a core base of customers at the Howden site that sit within the agri-bulks sector. This incorporates expert handling of cargo such as cement; pulp and fertilisers; and animal feeds. Being the dedicated facility for agri-bulks in the region, the site is responsible for the blending and bagging of raw products that enter into the facility through the distribution centre and then delivered throughout the supply chain to the end user. Having won awards from the local Chamber of Commerce previously, PD Ports continues to pride itself on a high level of service provided to its customer base.

“ Neil Anderson, Director, Short Sea Ports, guarantees that their close and personal interaction with clients sets them apart in the sector, saying: “Our small team at Howden continue to work in close partnership with customers, delivering exceptional, quality accredited solutions that supports the ongoing growth of their businesses and ours.” **”**



LEADING THE WAY IN PORT TECHNOLOGY

PD PORTS RECENTLY PLAYED HOST TO OVER 50 REPRESENTATIVES FROM PORTS ALL OVER EUROPE FOR THE 20TH ANNUAL EUROPEAN NAVIS USER GROUP (NUG).

The conference brought together users of Navis software, a state-of-the-art container terminal operating system, to collectively share knowledge and experience to improve port terminal processes. The event was sponsored by the Seaport Group, an association of independent consulting companies providing port consulting, and TBA, a global simulation consultant and equipment control software supplier.

The three-day event, held at Rockcliffe Hall in Darlington, saw presentations from the key sponsors as well as group discussions surrounding the use of Navis' products, how it can continue to meet the European NUG business needs, and ideas for overcoming operational challenges.

Representatives from Navis were in attendance to provide an update on changes to the system and discuss items related to customer support. Users were able to have candid and objective discussions with Navis on several issues with the goal of innovating and enabling efficiency for its customers. A tour of Teesport was also provided for

attendees to see how the terminal operating system worked at the 3rd largest port in the UK by volume.

“ Frans Calje, PD Ports' Managing Director - Unitised & Portcentric Logistics, commented: “Over the past five years, we've invested over £60M in developing, upgrading and enhancing capacity to meet the growing demands of our customers. Teesport's award-winning terminal operating system, created by Navis, is a key element in our continued growth. The improved functionality which the system provides us, supports our aim to position the Port as the northern gateway for containerised

goods destined for the North of the UK. This allows us to deliver quicker, more cost-effective routes to market for our customers.

“Supporting and attending these conferences is important for PD Ports as they bring together like-minded people who use the terminal operating system in ports across Europe to share best practice and troubleshoot challenges; the ultimate goal is to further improve the system for all current and future users.”

PD Ports implemented the UK's first cross-platform terminal operating system at Teesport in 2015. **”**



JDR EXPAND WORLD-CLASS FACILITY AT PORT OF HARTLEPOOL

JDR, A LEADING PROVIDER OF TECHNOLOGY CONNECTING THE GLOBAL OFFSHORE ENERGY INDUSTRY, HAS EXPANDED ITS SERVICE FOOTPRINT WITH PD PORTS IN HARTLEPOOL TO SUPPORT ITS CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE OIL & GAS AND RENEWABLES SECTORS.



JDR has been a valued tenant at the Port of Hartlepool since first acquiring 97,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space in 2008 and subsequently transformed it in to a world-class manufacturing facility. Since then, JDR's foothold has increased substantially and now includes three adjoining warehouses for manufacture and storage at the Port, totalling over 280,000 sq. ft.

The increased space will house a new state-of-the-art, high-capacity horizontal helix lay-up machine to manufacture umbilicals meeting the highest standards and technical specifications for steel and thermoplastic. The expansion will also provide additional storage for 6,000 metric tonnes of equipment.

“David Currie, CEO of JDR, says: “On behalf of JDR we are delighted to be growing our footprint and manufacturing capabilities at Hartlepool. Crucially, this investment will enable JDR to offer unrivalled technical expertise to design, test and deliver the next generation of subsea technology. By planning for the long term, we can anticipate the future needs of our customers and cement our position as a trusted partner, and be an integral part of clients' project success. It is good news for the area and more specifically for the current workforce who continue to be a fundamental part of our achievements. We are equally excited to continue our relationship with PD Ports with the expansion of our facility.”

6,000 METRIC TONNES OF EQUIPMENT



WAREHOUSES FOR MANUFACTURE AND STORAGE, TOTALLING OVER 280,000 SQ. FT.



“Richard Turner, COO of JDR, adds: “After the initial investment in our facility in Hartlepool in 2008, we have continued to invest incrementally in the site which is now a recognised worldwide centre of excellence for the design and manufacture of subsea power cables and umbilicals. This next exciting phase of expansion, necessitated by growing demand for our products, underlines our long-term commitment to Hartlepool and will give JDR the capacity to be the technology partner of choice for customers in all segments of the offshore energy industry.”

“Jerry Hopkinson, PD Ports' Managing Director Bulks and Port Services, commented: “We are pleased to see PD Ports' relationship with JDR continue through the growth of its world-class manufacturing facilities in Hartlepool. Our infrastructure at the Port is well suited to support companies within the energy sector due to its excellent transport links and distance to operations in the southern sector of the North Sea. The continued support and investment by JDR further strengthens the Port's position as the hub for a thriving cluster of offshore related businesses and adds to its growing number of successes in this sector.”

TALKING BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST

THE NORTHERN POWERHOUSE IS WITHOUT QUESTION ONE OF THE HOTTEST TOPICS IN THE NORTH AT THE MOMENT, AS IT IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC REBALANCING CONCEPT WE HAVE SEEN FOR DECADES.

In October, PD Ports sponsored a Northern Powerhouse Breakfast at Wynyard Hall, organised by The Journal and Gazette, which welcomed over 450 people from across the region's business community and further afield. The purpose of the much anticipated event was to act as a catalyst to encourage views and opinions on the much coveted initiative.

But the question on everyone's lips is what does devolution really mean for the North? Will it give true greater power to make decisions on a regional level and will the decisions be balanced across the region? Is the Government behind a

true Northern Powerhouse as opposed to selectively focussing on Liverpool, Manchester and perhaps Sheffield and Leeds? Hosted by Richard Moss, political editor for the BBC North East and Cumbria, the breakfast opened with a speech by James Wharton MP who talked candidly about his optimism for the future of the region and his personal responsibility for the delivery of the Northern Powerhouse.

Mr Wharton's speech was followed by a lively panel debate, which included our CEO, David Robinson, where strength in leadership was a top priority in many

people's view for the Northern Powerhouse to succeed, as well as speed of investment and the need for a regional brand identity.

The highly criticised levy on apprenticeships was also raising some strong opinions as a barrier to supporting businesses in skilling our young people to be ready for the new jobs created. One of the most critical questions from our point of view is whether the Government is serious about investment in transport, infrastructure and skills to ensure we are fit for purpose to create new opportunities, attract inward investment and support

sustainable growth. We want to see further support for inward investment in the region as well as urgent identification of transport priorities and much improved speed of delivery.

The origins of the Port have been at the heart of trade in the region for over 160 years and today, Teesport is not only the 3rd largest UK port by volume, but also the northern gateway for containerised goods destined for the North of the UK. The Port is a national asset helping to support the movement of goods in and out of a region which is the fastest growing in the UK.

Freight and logistics underpins the foundations of our business so we look forward to a strong government focus on facilitating a more interconnected transport infrastructure across the region to further increase and improve connectivity by road, rail and water. This will fundamentally be linked to the future success of the North East. It is vital for us as a region to collaborate with like-minded businesses, along with our collective LEPs to take on this challenge to play to our strengths as an ambitious, highly skilled and innovative region.

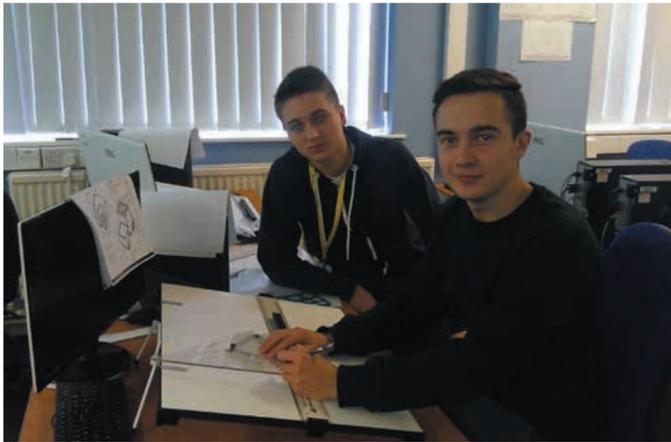
Whilst there are many questions left unanswered, the morning demonstrated the passion we have in the region to 'get things done' and start putting the wheels in motion to drive this from a concept into a reality; reigniting the North East as a dynamic counterweight to the thriving economy in the South.

For our latest news and views on the Northern Powerhouse follow us on twitter @pdports



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IN THE COMMUNITY



CLIMBING THE CAREER LADDER

PD Ports has been providing apprenticeships for over 14 years, seeing around 70 people begin their careers in a number of different vocations including engineering, dock operations and administration. Apprenticeships are important to PD Ports as it's a way to bring new talent into the company, ensure greater succession planning and provide vital job opportunities for young people in the area.

This year, two new apprentices have been taken on in the engineering department at Teesport through local training provider, NETA Training Group. Following a comprehensive selection process, Jonathan Kinson, electrical apprentice, and Luke Jackson, mechanical apprentice, were chosen to complete their apprenticeship with PD Ports. The standard of candidates interviewed through NETA was very high this year but Jonathan and Luke stood out as a good fit for PD Ports, as they demonstrated a great work ethic and values that mirror those of the business.

Top – Apprentices Jonathan Kinson and Luke Jackson

Bottom – Daniel Emmerson and Drew Reeder, now full time employees at Teesport



BOTH APPRENTICES WILL NOW COMPLETE A ONE-YEAR TRAINING PROGRAM WITH NETA, BASED IN STOCKTON.

This will be followed by on-the-job training within the engineering department at Teesport for three years. During this time, the apprentices will also complete their academic studies on day release. Already part of the PD Ports engineering team, Jack Ford, Daniel Emmerson and Drew Reeder, have successfully completed their apprenticeships. After a four-year training course, all three apprentices gained excellent academic qualifications which include an NVQ level 3 and HNC in their specialist areas. Although Jack has decided to pursue his career elsewhere, Daniel and Drew are now employed as full time engineers at Teesport.

In an effort to progress further, Drew Reeder is continuing his academic studies starting a degree course in Mechanical Engineering at Teesside University. This will take four years and when complete, Drew will have a BEng in Mechanical Engineering. [W](#)

PLANTING SEEDS FOR DAISY CHAIN

Volunteers from our Middlesbrough-based finance department recently donated their time and resources to support local charity Daisy Chain. The team of around 30 employees spent a day away from their office to carry out repair and maintenance work at the charity's base in Stockton.

Daisy Chain provides a range of services for those affected by autism, including support and activity groups for the whole family. With more than 1 in 100 of the UK population affected by autism, it is probable that, with a workforce of 1,350 people, a number of PD Ports' employees will need the support of charities like Daisy Chain.

The volunteers used their time to paint newly refurbished rooms, weed and plant new flowers in the sensory garden enjoyed by the many visitors Daisy Chain receives.

“ Judith Haysmore, Daisy Chain Chief Executive said: “We were delighted that staff from PD Ports volunteered for the day at our site in Norton. Having a working farm to run means that there is always something that needs to be done, and having companies such as PD Ports provide volunteers for the day makes such a difference to Daisy Chain and our families that we support.”

“We want to thank everyone that came and mucked in for the day and hope that they enjoyed the experience.”



CELEBRATING THE HIGH TIDE FOUNDATION'S SUCCESS SO FAR



high tide
OPPORTUNITIES ON THE HORIZON

OVER 430 PEOPLE FROM BUSINESSES ACROSS TEESSIDE AND FURTHER AFIELD ATTENDED HIGH TIDE'S FIRST FUNDRAISING BALL AT WYNYARD HALL'S GRAND MARQUEE IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

The black tie event, sponsored by Better, Nifco UK, PD Ports and Thirteen Group, raised over £24,000 to support the High Tide Foundation's ongoing activities.

The evening, presented by BBC Newcastle Radio host, Alfie Joey, highlighted the great work High Tide has achieved since it was established in 2012. High Tide Chairman, Kevin Shakesheff and trustee, David Robinson, spoke about the progress of the charity so far and what is coming up in the future.

The guests also heard from three of the young people who've engaged with the Foundation over the last couple of years, who spoke about how they'd benefitted from the different schemes they'd been involved in.

Throughout the night people were entertained with music from local artists, Samantha Duran and Andy Usher, as well as an inspiring speech from Business in the Community Chief Executive, Stephen Howard.

A fantastic night was had by all which raised a significant amount of money for the charity. So with this in mind, the Foundation is holding its next fundraising ball on Friday 23rd September, again at Wynyard Hall and we would be delighted if you could join us. To register your interest, please email events@hightidefoundation.co.uk. [W](#)

If you'd like to know more about the High Tide Foundation and the great work that it does within the community, or if you'd like to get involved, then get in touch via email

info@hightidefoundation.co.uk

or visit the website

www.hightidefoundation.co.uk



IN YOUR SHOES

WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO GET TO KNOW OUR PEOPLE HERE AT PD PORTS; GAIN INSIGHT INTO WHAT THEIR DAY-TO-DAY ENTAILS AND WHAT MAKES THEM TICK OUTSIDE OF WORKING HOURS.



Q&A
NATALIE PROCTOR
OPERATIONS TEAM LEADER, HOWDEN

In the second of our Q&A features, we find out what it's really like to be in the shoes of **Natalie Proctor, Operations Team Leader, Howden.**

Q TELL US ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

A As Operations Team Leader, my main responsibility is to ensure that all operations at the port are carried out safely and efficiently.

Q HOW BIG IS YOUR TEAM?

A There are 24 of us in total on site.

Q WHAT ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE DO YOU LIKE BEST?

A Working within the team, the main aspect of my role is to effectively manage the operations at Howden with careful strategic planning; ensuring I am able to react effectively if there are any changes throughout the day. I enjoy being hands on and having a team that I can rely on to get the task in hand done.

Q HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING AT PD PORTS?

A 15.5 years.

Q WHAT WOULD YOUR SUPER POWER BE?

A Mind reading. It would make life much easier.

Q IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

A Honolulu, 14th January 1973, to see the 'Elvis Aloha from Hawaii' concert.

Q HOW DO YOU RELAX?

A Walking and listening to music.

Q WHERE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO BE RIGHT NOW?

A Cyprus. Protaras or Paphos for the snorkelling.

Q WHO WOULD YOU INVITE TO YOUR DREAM DINNER PARTY?

A Vic Reeves, Bob Mortimer and Noel Fielding.



DID YOU KNOW?

We travel to 97% of UK postcodes twice a week making deliveries for our customer in Swadlincote. That's a lot of mileage!

