

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Mersin Int'l Port Expansion Project Foundation Laid**

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The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Mersin Port Expansion Project (EMH2) took place on March 19, 2021. The project has been realized with a \$375 million investment to boost the global competitive strength of Mersin International Port (MIP), Turkey's largest trade gateway to the world. With the project implemented by Mersin Uluslararası Liman İşletmeciliği A.Ş., MIP is aiming to meet the developing and growing business volume of the region and boost the number of mega ships served by the port. The project is slated to dial up the port's capacity to 3.6 million TEU from the level of 2.6 million TEU, recorded earlier.

**Mersin, March 19, 2021 - MIP General Manager, Johan Van Daele, and MIP Board Member, Zafer Kurtul, hosted the ceremony, which was held with the participation of Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of The Republic Of Turkey Adil Karaismailoğlu, Deputy Minister of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey, Governor of Mersin Ali İhsan Su, Head of Public-Private Cooperation Department of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office Ali Kamil Özmen along with Mersin top protocol representatives.**

**MIP General Manager, Johan Van Daele, expressed his excitement and pride in having laid the foundations of the "Mersin International Port Expansion Project", which will contribute to the development of the region and the country, in addition to creating additional employment for 500 individuals directly and 5000 individuals indirectly. Stating that the completion of the Expansion Project will further cement Mersin's strategic position as the gateway to the Eastern Mediterranean, Daele said: "At MIP, we work close to the maximum terminal capacity at peak times with a high export and import business volume. We have to ensure that the port is equipped with an efficient capacity, not only for the continuity of trade, but also for maintaining Mersin's key role. We continue to work hard to provide the service needed by the Hinterland ecosystem and to provide a strong and sustainable business environment for the region. Being acutely aware of our responsibility, we are determined to increase our activities in this field and create new employment opportunities for more people. While strengthening our position among the ports all around the world, we will keep contributing to the development of the region and the country. This way, by 2043 and with the technology**

of the day to come, we will be able to transfer the legacy we received from TCDD to the Turkish people and Mersin, who are the original owners.”

David Yang, the **Regional CEO of PSA Europe, Mediterranean, and The Americas**, conveyed as follows in his message: “The Mersin Port EMH II Expansion project, which is the first of many investments that Mersin Port will make in the future, will develop port-based supply chain solutions for cargo owners who will benefit from the investment, increase the logistics connection and visibility of the cargoes through precisely programmed intermodal connection and technology supported digital platforms and will consolidate its position as a headquarter for the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

With the ecosystem created by MIP, by constantly investing in the Infrastructure, the Technology and the Individuals, we will make significant contributions to the city and the economy of the country.”

Commenting on the Mersin Port Expansion Project, **Head of Public-Private Cooperation Department of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office** Ali Kamil Özmen said; “Our country is in an ideal position for international companies, when its production capacity, young, dynamic and qualified workforce, logistics infrastructure and other comparative advantages are considered. Port investments, which are the cornerstone of the logistics sector, improve our logistics infrastructure and contribute to the comfortable access of investors operating in our country to numerous parts of the world. Mersin International Port (MIP) investment, has a very important place in our logistics infrastructure, which has strengthened in recent years, and adds value to the Eastern Mediterranean and its neighboring regions, especially our country. Despite the pandemic, this expansion investment decision, which was taken with full confidence in our country's potential, is a project that we, as the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office, closely follow and provide facilitating solutions with the support of our President, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. As the Investment Office, we have prioritized projects in the logistics sector such as the Mersin Port, which will play an important role in increasing our exportation numbers and achieving our 2023 targets since day one and we will continue to support them hereupon.”

With the EMH I Project, the construction of which was completed in 2016, MIP was able to start serving mega ships with its existing 500-meter quay, and now with the extension of the existing pier to 880 meters within the scope of the EMH2 project, it will be able to simultaneously serve two 400-meters-long mega ships. With the EMH I project, MIP increased its capacity to 2.6 million TEU by increasing an additional 800 thousand TEU,

and when EMH2 is completed, its total capacity will reach 3.6 million TEU. Aiming to provide uninterrupted service to port users with an additional capacity of 1 million, MIP will bring the EMH2 Terminal, slated for full commissioning by the end of 2022, into full service by investing in additional equipment including 4 quay cranes and 24 field cranes.

With a 3 percent increase compared to 2019, MIP reached 2 million TEU container business volume in 2020. Despite the compelling effects of the pandemic on the world economy, by reaching this important milestone of 2 million TEU, it managed to

maintain its title as 'Turkey's leading port' MIP has seen its business volume soar by 130 percent since 2008, and now ranks first as Mersin's tax record holder every year, with the tax revenue increasing by 127 percent in 13 years in parallel with the development of its operations.

Striving to optimize its operational processes and maintain its efficiency level with the expectation of additional capacity, MIP will continue to attract projects that will contribute more to the economic development of the port and the region with the support of all its stakeholders in order to make it sustainable to provide high-level service to its current and potential customers.

**About Mersin Uluslararası Liman İşletmeciliği A.Ş.**

Established with the partnership of Akfen Holding and PSA International, Mersin Uluslararası Liman İşletmeciliği A.Ş. (MIP) took over T.C.D.D. Mersin Port Management on May 11, 2007 for 36 years. Having Australian Fund Company IFM as one of its shareholders since 2017, Mersin International Port (MIP) is connected to the major industrialized cities in Turkey's heartland, such as Ankara, Gaziantep, Kayseri, Kahramanmaraş and Konya as well as neighboring countries such as Syria, Iraq and Commonwealth of Independent States by railways and motorways. It is one of the main container ports in the Mediterranean Region with its transshipment and hinterland connections with the Middle East and the Black Sea. Mersin International Port (MIP) accounts for a major part of Turkey's import and export volume with its wide hinterland, accessible transportation opportunities and qualified personnel. MIP is Turkey's largest port in terms of the total volume of cargo handled annually and its current port reach.

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