

Press Release

DP World Yarımca Gulf Links to the Silk Road

Kocaeli, 30 July 2019 - Operational at Izmit Gulf since 2015, the DP World Yarımca Port has undertaken a great venture—The Yarımca Port has been connected to the railway network and is now hooked up to an uninterrupted transport line to China. The new venture has earned DP World Yarımca access not only to the whole of Turkey, but it is also now connected to the Caspian Sea through the Kars-Tbilisi-Baku Railway and from there on to China.

DP World Yarımca has thereby addressed the shortage of railway connection to its seaport and will now have a wider reach as far into Turkey as the railway system can go. Construction of the railway link was commenced in January and was completed within six months. It was inaugurated with a ceremony on 30 July 2019.

Turkey's Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Mehmet Cahit Turhan; **Chairman of The Presidential Investment Office and World Investment Agencies Association**, Arda Ermut; **General Manager of Turkish Railway Administration (TCDD)**, Ali İhsan Uygun; **General Manager of Transportation at TCDD**, Erol Arıkan; and **Kocaeli Governor**, Hüseyin Aksoy as well as managers of the related organizations in Kocaeli and Körfez attended the ceremony.

Rails Meet the Sea

DP World Yarımca CEO Kris Adams, who hosted the inauguration, gave a speech at the ceremony in which he pointed out that the railway was connected to the Kars-Tbilisi-Baku line to China via the Silk Road. *"As a result, our port will become a gateway to European countries via the Middle Corridor,"* noted Adams. **Adams further emphasized** that DP World offered management consulting to the Aktau and Korgas ports in Kazakhstan. *"I'm sure that our port, which has played a critical role in linking the Chinese market to Europe, will also contribute to the strategic positioning of Turkey,"* he added.

Chairman of the Presidential Investment Office Arda Ermut said, "The momentum Turkey has gained over the last 17 years is not a coincidence. With the improvement of the business and investment environment, Turkey has become an attractive investment and logistics center thanks to its strategic location, dynamic population, and high-quality labor. With the inauguration of this railway, we have paved the way to link any part of Turkey where the railway goes. Our aim is not only to boost investments in seaports and railways; our aim is to ensure that our investors operating in Turkey reach each corner of our country and the

entire world. As the Investment Office, we have pioneered versatile projects such as DP World, and we will continue to do so.”

Turkey’s Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Mehmet Cahit Turhan

indicated that Turks live in a country where more than 70 percent of its border is surrounded by seas and that is located at the crossroads of three continents. “We are right in the center of a transportation network that reaches the Atlantic Ocean through the Gibraltar Strait; the Arabian Peninsula, and the Indian Ocean via the Suez Canal; and Eurasia and the Far East through the Black Sea-Mediterranean connection of the Turkish Straits. In terms of accessibility and transportation, these features have made our country a natural hub for logistics. We are a logistics hub on a global scale not only between east and west but also the north-south axis. DP World has successfully connected its giant Yarımca seaport to the main railway line. This service is also a first of its kind for the private industry in Turkey. As a result, this modern port can serve any corner of Turkey with railway access. The Kars-Tbilisi-Baku Railway line, to which we, at the government, attach great importance, is also interlinked. From a wider perspective, Yarımca Port has in practice provided a direct link from China to London with this new line,” said Turhan.

The branch line connected to the Kocaeli-Istanbul railway line is one kilometer long. Constructed for bulk train operations, the railway line delivers cargo cars to the dock. With help of the most advanced technologies that DP World Yarımca Port employs, cars can loaded or unloaded directly by means of port’s remote-controlled cranes.

With the railway link, DP World Yarımca Terminal will reach everywhere the rails go, including Ankara, Eskişehir, Bilecik, and Kutahya. Mineral ore, marble, and machinery, generally shipped by railways, will be delivered economically and safely to the port and from there on to any part of the world through vessels.

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Communication

Asude Şengül

Tel:0530 06687 68

asude.sengul@dpworld.com

About DP World

DP World is a major contributor to world trade and is a key part of the supply chain. DP World has a prominent place in port operation on a global scale, employing more than 43,000 people at its 82 ports in 40 countries. Container handling accounts for one third of the main service and income of our company. DP World handled 64 million gross TEU containers by the end of 2016. With regular development and expansion plans, the company aims to increase its existing 84,6 million gross TEU capacity to 100 million TEU in 2020.

About DP World Yarımca

Established on a 46 hectares area, The DP World Yarımca Port is one of the largest container ports in the Marmara region, with a capacity of 1.3 million TEU. It employs 500 people at present. Constructed with a \$550 million investment in 2015, the port is noted for being the first and the only port specialized in goal-driven container handling at İzmit Gulf and the one with the most cutting-edge technologies.

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