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SEAINTEL MARITIME ANALYSIS

PANAMA CANAL EXPANSION 2014

Main US ports investing in preparation for new tonnage

When the Panama Canal expansion project is completed in 2014, what will the ramifications be? It appears to depend on who you ask and which assumptions you make.

SeaIntel Maritime is today launching the first of a series of analysis articles concerning the likely impact of the Panama Canal expansion in 2014. This first piece is focusing on the investments and actions already set in motion by a majority of the major US container ports.

Subsequent analysis will be released over the coming months focusing on trade flows, carrier impact, strategies, customer needs and environmental perspectives.

Background

In Panama, only 80 kilometers separate the Atlantic and

port location in the world with terminals in two oceans.

Construction on the Panama Canal began in 1904 and, throughout its history, the Canal has continually transformed and adjusted to meet the ever-changing requirements of international trade.

The Panama Canal was turned over from U.S. jurisdiction to Panama control on the 31st of December, 1999. Since then, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has been solely responsible for all aspects related to managing, operating, maintaining, and improving the canal.

The first complete Panama Canal passage by an oceangoing vessel was in 1914, so it seems fitting that the first vessel is expected to transit the newest segment of the canal exactly 100 years later - in 2014. This is the year where

ECOMMERCE BOOST

eCommerce in container shipping is seeing the beginnings of what might be large-scale change these days. In just the last few months OOCL, NYK, MOL and Safmarine have introduced a series of enhanced eCommerce tools aimed at improved customer experience and, presumably, internal efficiency savings. This week saw a demo-version of JOC Exchange launched with comments on Twitter hinting at this being as easy as Amazon, and indeed it was easy when you try it. Additionally Maersk Line will launch their new website officially tomorrow – however it has been accessible for a while. This is intended to be a beta-version encouraging users to provide feedback for further improvements.

All in all it seems e-commerce

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