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Unifeeder Charters More Methanol-Powered Feeder Vessels

Unifeeder Group, part of DP World Marine Services, has finalized a deal to add two methanol-fueled container feeder vessels to its fleet, in collaboration with Elbdeich Reederei and MPC Container Ships. Expected in 2026, these vessels will bolster Unifeeder's European network and support its emissions reduction goals. CEO Jesper Kristensen sees this as a significant step towards sustainability, aligning with the company's aim for net-zero emissions by 2050.

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Middle East logistics players reportedly eye potential of DB Schenker takeover

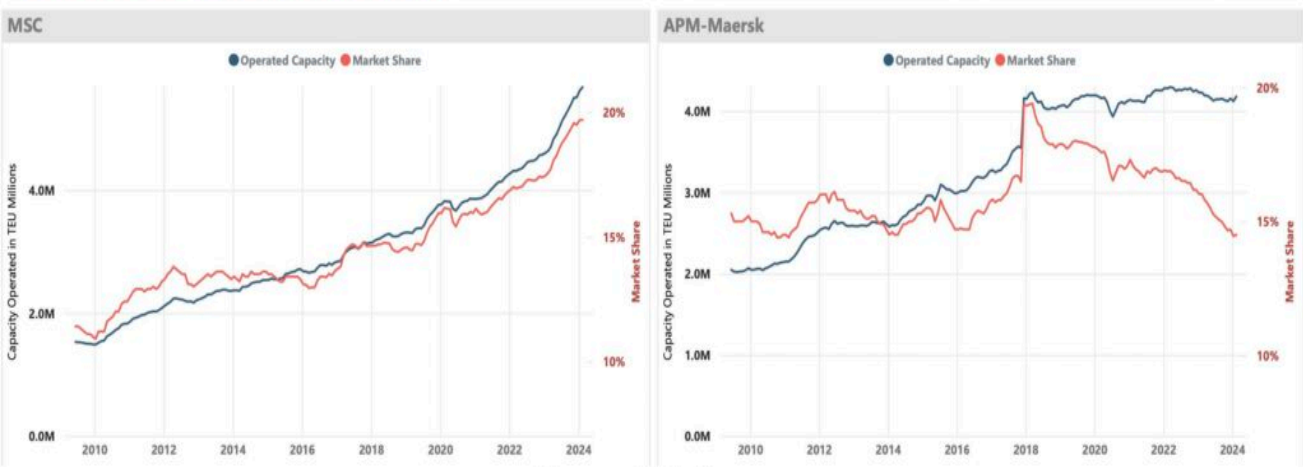
Over 20 bidders, including Arab companies and funds, are vying for DB Schenker, with DP World and ADQ among the interested parties. Saudi Arabian shipping company Bahri is also in the mix. The German government has concerns about non-European buyers, but an Arab investor may offer the most money. Opposition to Arab investors is decreasing in Germany. DSV's potential acquisition could boost its ebit significantly. Kuehne + Nagel has submitted a bid, while DHL and Maersk are less keen.

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The ‘truck on train’ Service with auto parts take train from Haryana to Gujarat for the first time

The 'truck on train' service debuted on the western freight corridor, reducing travel time between major manufacturing hubs. Trucks loaded with Maruti auto parts were transported from Gurgaon and Manesar factories to Gujarat's Palanpur in 12 hours, significantly shorter than the usual road journey. This eco-friendly service, introduced by DFCCIL, aims to reduce carbon emissions and promote efficient transportation. Maruti Suzuki and Vinsum Axxpress support this initiative for greener logistics.

DIVERGENT PATHS The world’s top two liners



Source: Alphaliner

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MSC approaches market share milestone

Mediterranean Shipping Co (MSC), led by Gianluigi Aponte, is poised to achieve a historic milestone by commanding a 20% global market share, surpassing Maersk. MSC's rapid growth trajectory, without acquisitions, suggests further expansion. MSC will part ways with Maersk next year from their 10-year partnership in the 2M vessel sharing agreement. Additionally, MSC ranks as the world's third largest cruise line alongside its cargo division.

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Chennai-Vladivostok Route talks on, dedicated shipping service under consideration too

India's Shipping Ministry, with Russian stakeholders, finalizes agreements for cargo movement along the Chennai-Vladivostok Route, aiming to boost trade efficiency. Plans include dedicated shipping services to enhance viability, with Indian officials set to visit Vladivostok to expedite execution.



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Bharat Mart going to be Indian goods’ Gateway to Middle East, Europe and Africa: DP World

DP World revealed plans for Bharat Mart, a marketplace in Dubai set to open in 2026. It aims to facilitate Indian manufacturers and exporters in accessing global markets, contributing to the \$100 billion non-oil bilateral trade goal between the UAE and India by 2030. Spanning 2.7 million square feet in Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza), Bharat Mart will feature showrooms, warehousing space, and office facilities, offering seamless logistics solutions for Indian exporters. Dubai's pivotal role in facilitating trade between the two nations is underscored by Bharat Mart's strategic location and extensive connectivity.

Another land port opening marks new era in India-Bangladesh trade relations

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New Integrated Checkposts (ICPs) will open at Sabroom, India, and Ramgarh, Bangladesh, marking a milestone in border relations. The ICPs streamline trade and travel processes, boosting connectivity. Sabroom's strategic location near Chittagong and the upcoming Matarbari port enhance its potential as a trade gateway. With completed railway connectivity and the Maitri Setu bridge, Sabroom promises transformative change, facilitating bilateral trade. Rapid progress ensures readiness for the inauguration, highlighting the importance of connectivity.

Cameroon waives import duty on 190,000 tons of rice from India

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The Cameroon Government is exempting approved importers from a 5% import duty to facilitate the arrival of 190,000 tons of rice from India in March and April 2024. This aims to stabilize rice prices amid inflation. However, concerns arise over revenue losses and market fairness, as this exacerbates existing tax reductions on rice imports. The duty exemption creates market competitiveness, potentially favoring duty-free Indian rice overtaxed alternatives.

Indian Oil Corp to venture into shipping business with two oil supertankers

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Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) is venturing into shipping by acquiring or leasing two second-hand very large crude carriers (VLCCs) through its new unit in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). This move aims to bolster the nation's energy security. IOC plans to finalize the deal within 6-8 months, with each VLCC capable of transporting around two million barrels of crude oil per trip.

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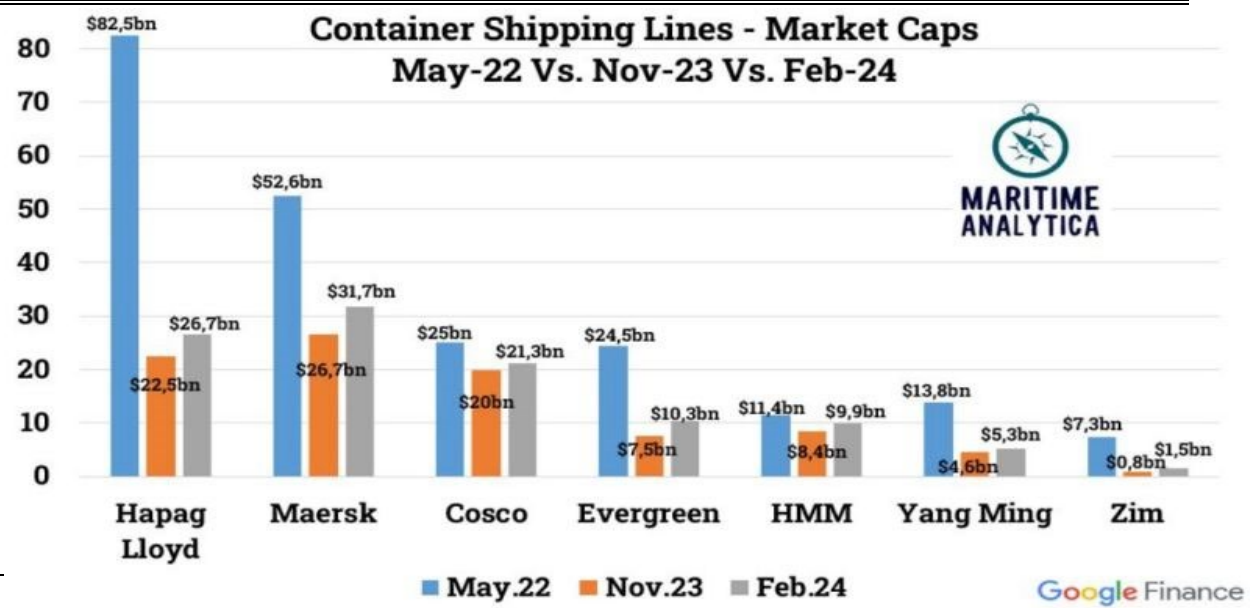
MSC is opening new feeder service between Paradip and Colombo

MSC has finalized a deal to launch a feeder service between Paradip Port (PPT) on India’s east coast and Sri Lanka’s Colombo Port. Starting in early March, the service will initially offer two or three sailings a month, eventually increasing to a weekly frequency as volumes grow. The move aims to incentivize containerized trade in India's eastern region, traditionally reliant on Kolkata Port or Visakhapatnam Port for transshipment via Colombo. MSC's expansion in India aligns with the country's growing economy, with the carrier having terminal interests at various port locations and recently acquiring a stake in container terminal projects.

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FMC tightens rules on charging container late fees

The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) has imposed new billing standards on ocean carriers and terminal operators to address abusive container late fees. Starting May 26, invoices must be issued within 30 days of charges, with specific data requirements. The rule aims to promote supply chain fluidity and clarity in billing practices, addressing concerns of market power abuse during the pandemic. Shippers welcome the changes, while carriers have expressed concerns over potential port congestion.



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SeaLead introduces GIX service to enhance India-Gulf connectivity

SeaLead has launched the Gulf India Express (GIX) container shipping service to improve trade routes between India and the Gulf region. In partnership with Blue Water Line, the service will operate two ships on a weekly rotation connecting key ports. The inaugural voyage is scheduled for February 22, 2024. SC Chan, Acting Head of SeaLead, emphasizes the service's importance in supporting trade between India and the Gulf. The new ownership structure, including investors like Eurasia Capital and HCP Investments, aims to strengthen SeaLead's operations and expand its market reach. Founded in 2017, SeaLead operates globally with headquarters in Singapore and a regional office in Dubai.

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Odisha to pay \$200 a box as VGF to MSC for shortfall in minimum volume per call at Paradip port

The Odisha government is offering incentives to shipping lines to initiate services from Paradip Port, aiming to reduce logistic costs for exporters and importers in the eastern state. Under this scheme, the government will provide \$200 per twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) to Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A (MSC) if export-import volumes during a ship call fall below 250 TEUs. MSC and the Odisha government signed a memorandum of understanding on February 16 to implement this initiative.

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