

More than 200 reasons to visit Multimodal

This year's Multimodal event on 5-7 April at the NEC, Birmingham has attracted a record 200 exhibitors from across the supply chain, freight and logistics services – including around 40 first-time exhibitors. As well as France Line (see below), they include US-based Klinge Corp, a leading provider of specialist refrigerated transport. Another newcomer to Multimodal is Northamptonshire based forwarders C Butt Ltd, which recently won a distribution contract with packaging manufacturer, Sealed Air. From across the Channel, The French Trade Commission in the UK will be presenting the French Pavilion at Multimodal 2011 for the first time and indeed the French Pavilion will be a hotbed of dynamic French companies from across the transport and logistics sector. Saint-Omer Développement, the regional development agency for St-Omer, will showcase all that the region has to offer in the field of transport and logistics.

Information without the online overload

Shippers' Voice seminars at the Multimodal 2011 exhibition and conference for the shipping and transport industries will tackle the problem of keeping ahead of new trends and developments in the industry - but without getting information overload.

Shippers' Voice MD Dr Andrew Traill, who will moderate the seminars, said: "In today's multimedia world, it is easy to feel bogged down by information overload, and yet keeping abreast of developing trends, new regulations, and

the changing needs of global customers, is vital to staying on top."

The interactive seminars will form an integral part of the event. They will feature panel discussions and case study presentations from industry experts including shippers and suppliers.

They will include a presentation on the TALgate project – a government-funded logistics search engine promoting sustainable choices in freight transport

procurement. Speakers will be Brian Bolam, founder and president of OmPrompt and vice chairman of the European Logistics Users Providers and Enablers Group and Stephen Rinsler, director, Bisham Consulting.

Stephen Rinsler explained: "Our objective is to facilitate a significant reduction in empty or part-loaded running of vehicles through informed choice and better use of rail, short sea and coastal transport."

The 6 April session will discuss security including up-to-date information on the latest security drives and the new air freight regulations in the wake of last year's Yemeni bomb plot. It will consider what transport and shipping organisations should be doing to improve security, and where to find more information on security requirements. Panellists will include ILSolutions director, Ivor Llewelyn, University of Lausanne and Cross-Border Research Association researcher Juha Hintsa and CEO of Innovative Compliance, Marcus Hallside.

Dr Traill comments: "This is a good example of how the Shippers' Voice clarifies issues affecting the industry. Over the past year there have been some major developments in security, and they affect almost all shippers in some way, but

how many know in what way they affect them, how they are continuing to develop in the short term, and what they should be doing right now?"

The afternoon session will include a panel discussion on how to use container swaps to manage freight risk.

The series will conclude on 7 April with a seminar on how technology can cope with the information overload. This will be led by Philip Lavin, Mark Brannan and Claire Umney, AEB (International).

Mr Lavin, who has a logistics and supply chain finance background, will explain how technology can help to "hear" through the noise, and how global businesses can keep up to date, and manage change amidst all the information overload, new regulations, cross-border procedures, carrier or documentation changes and

licence demands."

On-line sourcing and optimisation software firm Trade Extensions will also be holding a series of briefings featuring experts from industry including Cabot Corporation's Rafael Nagel, who will discuss how optimisation can help strategic decision making and identify cost savings; Patrice Bue of Ineos who will examine the use of advanced sourcing tools and optimisation in logistics procurement; Drewry's Philip Damas who will talk about market trends and contract risks in container shipping; and Arica Consulting's Kirsten Tisdale who will explain how logistics analytics can find the best available logistics data.

Garry Mansell and Joe Critchley from Trade Extensions itself will also present studies on e-sourcing logistics and the European freight market.

AV Dawson gets intermodal

Multimodal exhibitor AV Dawson is building a new intermodal rail terminal on Middlesbrough's Riverside Park estate to service growing levels of container freight coming up the River Tees.

AV Dawson has secured planning permission for the development, which will form part of a wider £10m infrastructure expansion, with work planned to begin later this year.

Once completed, the £2.6m AV Dawson Tees Intermodal Terminal will have rail sidings capable of handling trains carrying up to 80 containers at any one time with 16,000 square metres of operational area and storage for up to 1,200 containers.

In addition to the intermodal terminal, AV Dawson is investing £4.5m on a 200m new deep water shipping quay to serve the energy and subsea markets and £2.4m on a bulk warehouse.

Companies using the intermodal terminal will benefit from a direct link to the East Coast Main Line as well as AV Dawson's freight facilities including its Ayrton Railhead, North Sea Supply Base and Dawsons wharf quays on the adjacent River Tees. In addition, the group has 200+ trailers in its road haulage fleet.

The container freight market is enjoying a resurgence after suffering during the economic downturn. Industry experts are predicting that the upturn will witness growth in global container traffic of 7.1% over the next five years.

AV Dawson is the only company in the Middlesbrough area other than PD Ports to be able to offer loaded lifts, a service that has already led the likes of Interbulk, Bulkhaul and UTT to sign deals to store containers at the River Tees site.

Gary Dawson, managing director of AV Dawson, said:

"There has been a sustained push towards moving freight by containers for some time now because of the benefits it brings in terms of lower shipping costs and cuts to shipping time.

"From our perspective, our ability to move goods by road, rail and sea places AV Dawson in a prime position to handle container traffic. By making this significant investment in developing a dedicated intermodal terminal, we are further strengthening our ability to move goods swiftly and efficiently on behalf of our clients. We see this as a major growth area for AV Dawson."

The shift towards containerisation has been driven, in part, by the move to modern methods of manufacturing. Using boxes ensures that goods come packed, sealed and deliverable to much more accurate delivery times which supported the move to just-in-time manufacturing.



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