

Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port Extends the Capacity of the Liquid Cargo Berth

At the end of March, Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port commenced the nautical work operations for the extension of the liquid cargo berth located at the Montoir de Bretagne multi-bulk terminal. The creation of two new landing stages will make it possible to significantly increase the capacity of the berth, for which the current occupancy rate is close to saturation point. These port infrastructures are expected to be delivered in December 2022.

The nautical operations of this work project began on 23rd March. A new berthing facility is being built. Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port and Vinci Maritime and Inland Waterway Construction (VCMF), which has been charged with carrying out the works contract, are currently engaged in installing the berthing and mooring dolphins and in putting in place the inshore pilots' gangways, which were manufactured during the first quarter of 2022 by the teams of personnel at Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port's production and maintenance workshops.

The work project is conducted by alternating one week of work operations (from 6 a.m. on Monday to 10 p.m. on Friday) and one week in which the work operations are suspended (from the Friday night or from the following Monday morning), so as to permit the ongoing commercial operation of the liquid cargo berth. A first one-week period of utilization has just ended: five vessels were able to berth and to unload their cargo without incident.

Once the nautical work has been completed, the construction work on the two landing stages will depart from the riverbank outward into the Loire employing land-based resources only, so as not to interfere with the operation of the berth. When these port infrastructures have been built, the work project will continue with the creation of the networks infrastructure.

More Flexibility for Customers

Built in 1976, the berth receives vessels with a draught of up to 10.5 metres. It is used by several industrial firms that import or export different types of liquid bulk cargo, including vegetable oils, sand, and the raw ingredients for the manufacture of fertilizers.

Following this work project, the 250-metre-long berthing facility will be able to receive vessels measuring 200 metres in length and with a displacement of 60 000 tonnes, and will also be able to accommodate two bulk carriers at the same time. Increasing the capacity of the Montoir de Bretagne liquid cargo berth will provide greater flexibility and user friendliness, by dissociating traffic types that are handled today on a single landing stage. The new configuration will thereby assist current and/or potential users of the facility in their development and in the diversification of supply.

This improvement represents an investment of 8 million euros, which is being co-financed within the framework of the 2015-2020 Central Government – Regional Government Planning Agreement.