



Press Information

24 May 2011

Join us on a Coastlink cruise

The Coastlink Liverpool conference takes place on 15/16 June and for many, the highlight will be a cruise from Liverpool Pier Head to Salford Quays in Manchester while delegates engage in a series of workshops and then discuss conclusions. The UK's Shipping Minister, Mike Penning MP, will be on board the Mersey ferry *Royal Daffodil* and will address delegates before the workshops begin.

Only slightly shorter than the Panama Canal, the Manchester Ship Canal opened in 1894 and allowed ocean-going vessels to sail right into the heart of Manchester. It only began to decline in the 1970s when containerisation produced a steady escalation in ship size and Manchester Docks finally closed in 1982. Some berths at the seaward end of the Canal, primarily handling liquid products, have remained in use and now the current owner, Peel Ports, is well advanced with its plans to return traffic to Manchester with new facilities suitable for containers at Salford Quays.

Shippers are expected to be well-represented at this conference as Liverpool is a major logistics centre and the heart of many companies' supply chain networks, serving as it does a hinterland of about 7.5 million people. One key subject to be discussed will be the desirability of closer collaboration between shippers to consolidate volumes, so making their traffic more interesting to shortsea, barge and rail operators.

Geographically there will be a bright spotlight shining on Ireland and Iberia, strong trades for the Port, and on reefer transportation. North-West England is traditionally a major food producer and the availability of temperature-controlled transport is crucial. The need for efficiency in the supply chain is paramount and intermodal transport must fight hard to win business away from the road operators.

While *Royal Daffodil* provides the venue for Day One, Liverpool's Maritime Museum is the chosen location for Day Two.

Full details of the programme and how to register can be found on www.coastlink.co.uk.

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