

2022 Ambassador Award Honoree



The Port of Cork is the key Tier 1 seaport in the South of Ireland. It is one of only two Irish ports which service the requirements of all six shipping modes i.e., Lift-on Lift-off, Roll-on Roll-off, Liquid Bulk, Dry Bulk, Break Bulk, and Cruise. ICL's direct deep-sea route, launched in June 2020, operates between the Port of Cork and Penn Terminals in Chester, PA, is the only direct route out of Ireland connecting to the USA.

The Port has made impressive strides in recent decades with regard to investment. The Port of Cork has invested heavily in improving Port infrastructure and facilities, with an investment of €87m in the Ringaskiddy Re-development Contract with Phase one scheduled to deliver an Optimised 360m Single Berth, two new Post Panamax ship-to-shore cranes, a Straddle Carrier Operating System, a new maintenance building for straddle carriers and new Customs & Excise facilities. This Cork Container Terminal development in the Port of Cork translates into significant economic benefits for Cork and the Munster region, as well as the national economy. 98% of goods imported or exported from Ireland are moved by ship, amounting to over €14 billion annually in Cork alone, highlighting the importance of the port to the economy of the region.

Due to its favourable location on the South coast of Ireland and its modern DeepWater facilities, the Port of Cork is ideally positioned for direct deep-sea shipping services as well as European shipping routes. A well-developed road infrastructure eases the flow of traffic from and to the Port.

Despite the various challenges faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic, total Container Traffic amounted to a record 282,000 TEU, an increase of 12%. In addition to facing significant risk to trade because of Covid 19, the pandemic caused 2021 to be a very challenging year for the tourist and Cruise Liner industry worldwide. The Port is now well-positioned to welcome a safe return to Cruise once restrictions allow.

The Port of Cork is also OHSAS 18001 (H&S), ISO14001 (Environment), ISO 50001 (Energy), IPSEM, and ISPO (Marine Pilotage) accredited. The Port of Cork's growing reputation for quality service, including prompt and efficient vessel turnaround, ensures its position as a vital link in the global supply chain.



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In Philadelphia, USA

Accepting on behalf of the Port of Cork:

Conor Mowlds, Chief Commercial Officer

Conor Mowlds is Chief Commercial Officer of the Port of Cork Company, responsible for development and implementation of the Port's commercial strategy, including its integrated business development, marketing, and public relations plans.

Previously, he served as the Head of the National Maritime College of Ireland, a tripartite role that incorporated the Managing Directorship's of its specialist joint ventures companies, GAC Training & Service Solutions Limited and SEFtec NMCI Offshore Training Limited.

Following a career at sea on deck, he held a variety of shore positions in both the public and private sectors in the UK and Ireland in policy development, education, vessel operations, safety management, and business development.

In 2004 he took up a role with the Irish government's dedicated Development Agency for the Maritime Sector, the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO), where he held the brief for maritime education and training for 4 years before taking over as the Head of Commercial Operations at the NMCI, the role he held immediately prior to taking up the position as Head of the country's joint civilian / naval maritime training, education & research Institution.

Conor has held a seat as a Council Member on the Board of the Irish Chamber of Shipping (ICOS) and has served as a member of the ICOS Manpower Committee. He was appointed to the Irish government's Development Task Force for the development of the maritime economy "Harvesting our Ocean Wealth" and served on the Steering Group for the Study of the Current and Future Skills Requirements of the Marine/Maritime Economy to 2020.

Conor is a graduate of Maritime Business & Law, holds post-grad qualifications in business development, marketing, strategic management, and marine quality & safety systems, and is a Fellow of the Institute of Logistics & Transport (FCILT).

