



Press Release

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Europorte wins contract with Grand Port Maritime at La Rochelle

The Grand Port Maritime de La Rochelle has selected Europorte¹, the rail freight operating subsidiary of the Eurotunnel Group, to take over the management, operation and maintenance of its railway network for a period of three years.

The 6th largest sea port in France, by annual traffic volume, La Rochelle Atlantic Port is the leading port in France for forestry product imports and the number two for cereal exports. The port is a true gateway to Europe and has placed the development of rail freight at the heart of its strategy. The Grand Port Maritime de La Rochelle has seen significant growth (65%) in its rail traffic during the last 4 years, handling more than 1.1 million tonnes a year today. It has an important exchange yard interfacing with the national rail network, three lines serving the yard and a hundred switches and crossings. In all, the port has 45 km of railway track. The Grand Port Maritime de La Rochelle is the first port to have obtained ISO 14001 environmental certification for all its activities.

La Rochelle Atlantic Port will have the advantage of a dedicated team through the creation by Europorte of some 10 new jobs. The award of this contract by the Grand Port maritime de la Rochelle recognises Europorte's expertise in railway maintenance and operation. The partnership will give the port real-time information on the use of the tracks and on the state of the network. Rail transport is a key factor in competitive port performance.

Europorte has already won contracts at the Port of Dunkirk, the *Grand Port Maritime* at Nantes Saint-Nazaire, the *Grands Ports Maritimes* at Le Havre and Rouen, and the ports at Paris, Bordeaux and Strasbourg. Port infrastructure management is a strategic development in one of Europorte's core sectors of activity.

¹ On the ground, Europorte subsidiary, Socorail, will operate and maintain the rail network at the Port de la Rochelle.