

FINAL: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## **A NEW TRAIN FOR 3MG**

This week saw the launch of the new Mersey Multimodal Gateway (3MG) train at the Widnes based site.

At a naming ceremony at the Ditton rail and road logistics hub, Freightliner Ltd unveiled the low emission locomotive with the 3MG nameplate.

Freightliner presented the 3MG plaque in recognition of the sites aim to maximise the use of transport by rail to reduce congestion and pollution in the region.

Peter Maybury, managing director at Freightliner said: "Freightliner recognises the rail freight terminal operated by Stobart Port's as a key location for its customer base, moving from four to five trains a day will increase the number of containers to around 87,000 a year, close to 10% of Freightliner's total carryings".

Tony McDermott, Leader of Halton Borough Council said "The Mersey Multimodal Gateway is committed to providing sustainable logistics solutions and can offer bespoke solutions to companies wishing to invest here. It's great that we'll have a train carrying the 3MG name and brand across the UK and continuing to build awareness of this location."

Steve O'Connor, managing director of Stobart Ports said: "We are delighted to be working with Freightliner and pleased that they have identified the 3MG site as an integral element of their supply chain from deep sea ports to the North West of England".

3MG originally comprised of 750,000 sq. ft. of warehousing and is currently undergoing the first phases of a multi-million pound expansion which will provide 3.5 million sq. ft. of new warehousing and create approximately 5,000 new jobs.

The naming event was attended by representatives from Halton Borough Council, Freightliner and Stobart Group.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to editors:**

**Mersey Multimodal Gateway (3MG)** is a Regional Strategic Investment Site situated in Widnes. It is a public and private sector partnership between Halton Borough Council, the Stobart Group, the Northwest Development Agency and the Government Office Northwest. 3MG will attract over £100m of investment over the next five years and aims to create up to 5000 new jobs locally. For more information please visit [www.3-mg.co.uk](http://www.3-mg.co.uk)

**Freightliner** is the UK's largest haulier of maritime containers, accounting for 20% of the total market share, and 81% of the rail-fed market. Its business is concentrated through five key deep-sea ports: Felixstowe, Southampton, Thamesport, Tilbury and Seaforth. The company provides trunk rail services between these ports and inland railports (of which they own and operate 8), moving customers' containers on the first or last leg of a worldwide voyage, and transport up to 3,000 boxes per day. In its unique logistics offering, Freightliner also has its own fleet of vehicles to complete the final road leg of the journey.

**Stobart Group** is one of the UK's leading providers of transport and logistics solutions, The company provides road, rail, sea and inland waterway transport and operates over 1,800 trucks and five million square feet of warehousing. The Group employs more than 5,300 people in the UK, Ireland and Europe.

Core to Stobart Group's strategy is reducing environmental waste through providing innovative transport solutions and efficient utilisation of its fleet. Stobart works in partnership with its customers to offer transparency in pricing enabling them to share both risk and reward.

The Company operates the major intermodal container terminal and storage facility and the Port of Weston on the Manchester Ship Canal, now re-branded as the Mersey Gateway Port