



Hanjin mega-ship calls Long Beach

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By Bill Mongelluzzo

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LOS ANGELES -- The Hanjin Dallas, the fifth in a series of five 8,000-TEU vessels deployed in Hanjin Shipping's Asia-West Coast service, called Long Beach Wednesday on its maiden voyage.

Hanjin now operates a full string of mega-ships on its service from South China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

The vessels call at the facility operated by Total Terminals International, a joint venture of Marine Terminals Corp. and Hanjin Shipping Co. James Kwon, president of Total Terminals, said it takes four to five days to work the new-generation vessels, depending upon how many cranes are used.

Shipping lines calling in Southern California now operate four weekly trans-Pacific services with 8,000-TEU-class vessels, with one or two more likely to be added by the end of the year. These ships, almost twice the size of the average trans-Pacific vessel, tax the capacity of marine terminals and the inland infrastructure where they call.

Total Terminals has been preparing for the arrival of the mega-ships for the past two years, expanding its facility and purchasing super post-Panamax cranes capable of working vessels with containers stowed 22 rows wide, Kwon said. The Hanjin Dallas holds containers 18 rows wide.

While the Total Terminals facility is already the largest in Long Beach at 340 acres, the port is expanding the former Navy facility by another 30 acres, with completion due by early 2007.

Total Terminals also is installing low-emission yard tractors and other cargo-handling equipment and has increased the use of on-dock rail to help reduce emissions, Kwon said.

Bill Mongelluzzo can be reached at bmongelluzzo@joc.com.