



PRESS RELEASE

Friday 10 December 2010

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CREATION OF THE I-TRANS INNOVATION PLATFORM FOR LOGISTICS AND CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORT (I-TRANS LTM)

A partnership agreement was signed on 10 December by Dunkerque-Port, Dunkirk Urban Community, the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regional Council, Eurotunnel company, the Greater Calais Community, Calais Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Nord-Pas de Calais Logistics and Transport Club, Lens Euralogistic Hub, and the Opal Coast and Artois Universities. The agreement, an initiative of the "Transport Terrestre Promotion Northern France" association which heads up the i-Trans world competitiveness cluster for rail and innovative transport systems, is aimed at creating an innovation platform for the development of logistics and consolidated transport.

The purpose of this innovation platform, based in Dunkirk, is to reinforce the capacities for steering and carrying out research and development on consolidated transport and logistics. It will set up a consolidated transport observatory, organise French lobbying of the European authorities in order to position the region's transport and logistics capacities and its connections with existing freight corridors in Europe, and develop capacities for setting up collaborative projects. It will maintain links with the International Campus on Safety and Intermodality in Transportation (CISIT) and with partner competitiveness clusters: the Retail Industries Cluster (PICOM), the Seine Normandie Logistics Cluster NOV@LOG, the RFID Cluster and the European clusters (Logistics in Wallonia, SEEDA). It will promote the investment of university laboratories in research on consolidated transport, particularly the Opal Coast University and the Artois University.

About Dunkerque-Port: France's third-ranking port, Dunkirk is well known as a port handling heavy bulk cargoes for its numerous industrial installations. It has also built its reputation in other sectors such as cross-Channel RORO traffic to Great Britain, containers, fruits, etc. Classified as the seventh port of the North Europe Range which extends from Le Havre to Hamburg, Dunkirk is also France's leading port for ore and coal imports; France's leading port for containerised fruit imports; France's leading port for copper imports; and France's second-ranking port for trade with Great Britain.