

PRESS RELEASE

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FIRST FRENCH GRAIN SHIP TO CHINA FOR 9 YEARS

Nord Céréales and the Port of Dunkirk have re-launched the grain trade between France and China.

The «**Moon Globe**», a Panamax ship 225m long and 32.26m broad, called at the Port of Dunkirk during the last week of August to load more than 60,000 tonnes of wheat from the Nord Pas-de-Calais, Somme and Aisne regions, bound for Guangzhou in China.

France had not shipped any grain to China since 2004.

The quality of the wheat offered is highly satisfactory and opens up new opportunities for trade with Chinese buyers.

With its outstanding access for shipping, its draught, and the handling facilities available, the Port of Dunkirk can accommodate very large ships for the loading of grain.

The «**Moon Globe**» called at the Nord Céréales terminal and was loaded at a rate of 1,800 tonnes per hour, by using two gantry cranes simultaneously. Nord Céréales recently acquired a second loading gantry to double its handling capacities.

Joël Ratel, General Director of Nord Céréales, said: «The 2013-2014 season looks promising, in terms of both quantity and quality, and gives us good prospects for the coming weeks and months.»

Christine Cabau, Chair of Dunkerque-Port's Executive Committee, added: «The investments made by Nord Céréales in the Port of Dunkirk are bearing fruit: we are able to berth and load extremely large ships with a high level of productivity to satisfy the most demanding clients. We are delighted with this result which rewards the efforts made by the sector.»

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The Nord-Céréales terminal is located in the Port of Dunkirk and offers all the facilities needed for berthing ships with a capacity of 110,000 tonnes. The terminal has 222,000 tonnes of vertical storage, 110,000 tonnes of horizontal storage, and a 3,000-point dryer.

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, fruit, etc. Classified as the seventh port of the North Europe Range which extends from Le Havre to Hamburg, Dunkirk is also the leading French port for ore and coal imports, France's leading port for containerised fruit imports, and the country's second-ranking port for trade with Great Britain.



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