

PRESS RELEASE

CAP 2020 : The Supervisory Board welcomes the progress of the project and the selection of TIL for the Second Container Terminal

At its meeting on September 25, 2026, at the headquarters of the Port of Dunkirk Authority (Dunkerque, France), the Supervisory Board reviewed the progress of the construction project launched by the Port of Dunkirk Authority and the discussions with Terminal Investment Limited (TIL), a subsidiary of MSC Group, regarding the development and operation of the second container terminal being built as part of CAP 2020.



CAP 2020 : a project progressing according to schedule

This major new milestone builds on CAP 2020, the project launched by the Port of Dunkirk Authority to extend the deep-water container quay by 1,000 meters and accommodate a second container terminal at the West Port.

After a year in 2025 devoted to preparatory work, the construction project entered a particularly visible phase in the spring of 2026. Work on the new quay began on May 7, 2026. The first diaphragm wall panel was poured on July 28, and the pace gradually increased, reaching five panels per week by the end of August, out of a total of 188 planned. Completion of the entire quay is contractually scheduled for January 2029.

Work on the next phases is also underway. The bidding process for the first phase of hydraulic excavation was launched in March 2026; the first bids were submitted in August, and negotiations began in September. The contract award is expected before the end of the year. The main marine dredging contract is also set to be put out to bid.

At the same time, work to improve land access to the West Port is nearing completion. The new road link, connecting the roundabout directly to the A16 highway interchange, is scheduled to open in early October.

While the Port of Dunkirk Authority is building the port infrastructure, the future operator will oversee the development of the terminal and the installation of its operational equipment. The simultaneous execution of these operations is expected to enable the new container terminal to begin operations in 2029.

Terminal Investment Limited (TIL), operator of Dunkirk's second container terminal

On July 6, 2026, the Port of Dunkirk Authority and TIL signed a memorandum of understanding outlining a proposed terminal agreement. This agreement specifically provides for the provision of a 1,000-meter deep-water berth as well as a site of approximately 68 hectares to install the equipment necessary for the operation of the future terminal.

The supervisory board of the Port of Dunkirk Authority believes that this development would represent a major milestone in the port's container traffic development strategy and would strengthen Dunkirk's position among the major container ports in Northern Europe.

A new milestone for container shipping in Dunkirk

The arrival of TIL would represent a major strategic asset for Dunkirk. TIL is part of the MSC Group, the world's leading container shipping line, whose network offers Dunkirk significant opportunities in terms of new maritime connections, transshipment, and the development of new cargo flows.

The project presented by TIL calls for a phased development of the future terminal, whose capacity could eventually reach approx. 2 million TEUs per year. Its operations will combine transshipment and import-export traffic, with a twofold objective: to strengthen Dunkirk's position in major international maritime trade and to develop cargo flows that benefit the port's economic ecosystem and the Northern European hinterland.

Leveraging the density of its global maritime network, the creation of a new MSC hub in Dunkirk will significantly increase the number of routes and connections offered from the port. This concentration of cargo flows will directly benefit shippers in the hinterland, who will thus have access to a broader range of transportation options, improved international connectivity, and access to a greater number of destinations.



The prospect of TIL becoming the operator of the second container terminal represents a major development for the Port of Dunkirk. The arrival of a player of this stature, backed by the world's leading shipping line, will open up new opportunities for growth and strengthen Dunkirk's integration into major international maritime trade routes. It fully validates the strategic choices and investments made by the Port of Dunkirk Authority over the past several years.

Emmanuelle VERGER, Chair of the Supervisory Board of Port of Dunkirk Authority



For over a decade, the port has been at the heart of our strategy for the region's economic recovery. The arrival of TIL and the prospect of this second container terminal represent a powerful driver of economic diversification for us. By strengthening Dunkirk's maritime connectivity and expanding its handling capacity, this development opens up new opportunities for our industrial base and for the entire hinterland. It demonstrates that the strategic choices we have collectively made over the past several years are bearing fruit.

Patrice VERGRIETE, Chairman of the Dunkirk Urban Community and Mayor of Dunkirk

ABOUT PORT OF DUNKIRK AUTHORITY

The Port of Dunkirk Authority, France's leading port complex in partnership with the ports of Hauts-de-France, is undergoing a major transformation. Industry, energy, transport and logistics are evolving in tandem to address the challenges of the ecological and energy transition.

Alongside all its public and private partners, the Port of Dunkirk Authority is playing a full part in this collective drive and in the ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

This transition begins with the transformation of industrial activities. Dunkerque-Port is supporting the development of shared infrastructure for CO₂, heat, gas and non-conventional water, promoting the decarbonisation of processes, the circular economy and synergies between industrial players. At the same time, the port is welcoming new businesses that are helping to renew and diversify the industrial base, particularly in the fields of electric batteries, the agri-food sector, the production of alternative and sustainable fuels, and data centres.

This transformation is also accompanied by the development of the region's port and logistics capacities. Thanks to its maritime and multimodal connections, Dunkirk enjoys a strategic position at the heart of European trade, with access to major continental markets and a privileged proximity to the British Isles. With CAP 2020, which entered the implementation phase in 2025, the Port of Dunkirk Authority is also strengthening its capacity with a second deep-water container terminal due to be completed by 2029.

This transformation is underpinned by a port area that is already a major economic driver. Each year, the Port of Dunkirk Authority generates €4 billion in added value and supports 30,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs. By 2030, the projects currently underway are expected to create a further 20,000 jobs, further strengthening the port's role in the region's economic and industrial development.

MEDIA

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