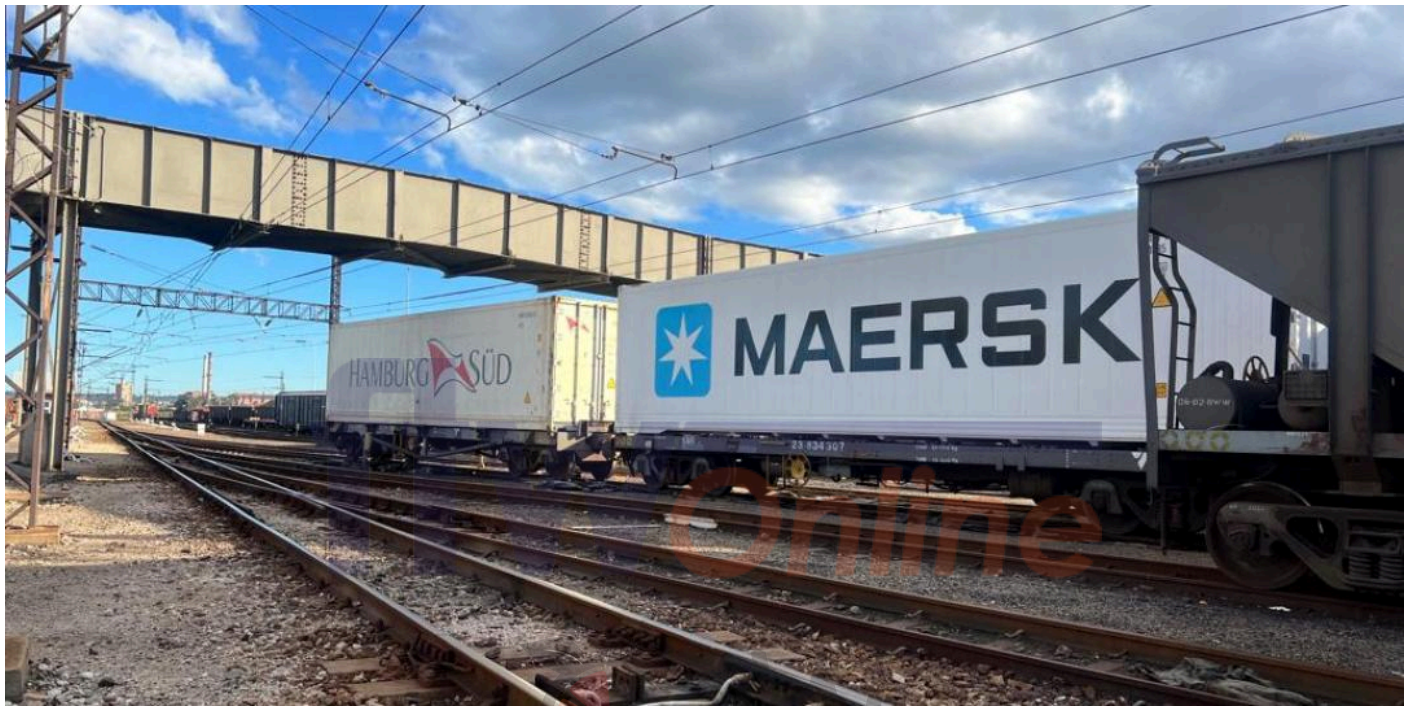


ROAD/RAIL FREIGHT

Maersk collaborates with Transnet to drive citrus export efficiency

05 Jul 2023 - by Staff reporter



Transnet Port Terminals (TPT), Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) and Maersk have announced a collaboration to implement a road-to-rail initiative during the citrus season in the Eastern Cape Terminals.

The collaboration aims to alleviate congestion at the Ngqura Container Terminal (NCT) and enhance business fluidity by using rail transport for the movement of empty reefer containers. Shipping lines typically discharge empty reefer containers in preparation for increased demand during the citrus season, which begins on May 1 and ends on October 30.

“Historically, these containers were road-hauled from NCT to the Maersk container depot near Deal Party. However, the high influx of trucks during this period prompted an engagement between TPT and Transnet Freight Rail. Rail transport was explored as a means of reducing congestion and optimising operations,” Transnet’s NCT said in a statement on Tuesday.

NCT said the first Maersk reefer shuttle train had moved 50 empty reefers from NCT to Deal Party last month.

“The success of this rail shipment shows the effectiveness of the collaborative initiative, which has been in development for nearly two years. By utilising rail

transport, the initiative aims to mitigate congestion at NCT and improve overall business fluidity,” the terminal said.

“One train carrying 50 containers is equivalent to removing 50 trucks from ports and roads. The reduction in truck traffic enhances business operations but also contributes to safer roads.”

Transnet said the collaboration exemplified its commitment to implementing innovative solutions that benefited both the industry and the local community.

“Looking ahead, TPT and Transnet Freight Rail plan to expand the road-to-rail initiative in the Eastern Cape region by introducing an inter-terminal shuttle service between NCT and Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) Container Terminal for full containers. Additionally, efforts will be made to maximise the utilisation of the return leg from Deal Party to NCT for empty containers,” NCT said.

“This collaboration sets a precedent for future industry partnerships aimed at improving efficiency, reducing congestion, and promoting sustainable logistics practices.”

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