**Largest Ever Wind Turbine Cargo at Foynes**

August 2013



Evidence of the enormous investment potential of the Shannon Estuary, thanks to its deep-water channels, was to be seen at Foynes Port recently as a giant 55,000 tonne ship, the Santa Fe, carrying one of the largest ever cargo of wind turbines to come into Ireland, docked at the County Limerick port on the 16th of August.  The ship, which arrived in Foynes from China, departed for Rotterdam after having its cargo unloaded and transported by road to wind turbine installations on the West coast.

Shannon Foynes Port Company, which handled the 200 metre long vessel, published its Vision 2041 Masterplan earlier this year.  The plan aims to attract international investors to establish manufacturing and potentially transshipment operations on the estuary thanks to its strength as the only Irish port authority with sufficient natural water depths to accommodate the global trend for a doubling and more of in the size of vessels (up to 80,000 tonnes) over the coming decade or more. This is due to the enlargement of the Panama Canal - the world’s most important shipping route, which influences vessel sizes globally.