



L. to r.: CEO of Shannon Foynes Port Company Pat Keating with Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection Pat Breen and Mark Cullen, Assistant CEO of the HSA who were on hand to see the quality health and safety standards in operation at the port.

Shannon Foynes Port Company delivers record profit levels

Shannon Foynes Port Company (SFPC) has posted another record performance for 2018, with EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) at €6.8million, its annual report reveals. Operating profits in the period remain exceptionally strong at €4.8million, €1.2million or 34% higher than five years ago, 2014. Revenue increased by 4.9%.

The company's main ports, Foynes and Limerick, again achieved record tonnage levels, with an 11.7% increase in throughput. However, overall tonnage throughput was down by 5.5% to 10.7million due to a reduction of activity at privately managed terminals on the estuary.

This is the sixth year in succession that general cargo terminals have increased year on year. Tonnages at the Limerick and Foynes terminals for 2018 are some 50% higher at end 2018 than at end 2013 and exceed previous historically high tonnage levels experienced during 2006 by 11.2%.

CEO Mr Pat Keating said : “We are pleased with our performance in 2018. Year on year Shannon Foynes Port Company is consistently delivering healthy profits. Since 2011, the beginning of our masterplan Vision 2041, tonnage at our general cargo terminals has increased by just over 72%. We fully expect that tonnage throughput will continue in an upward trajectory, in line with the mid to high scenario projected in Vision 2041,” the CEO said.

He continued: “Due to the solid increases in throughput at our terminals, the demand for new capacity remains stronger than ever and at this stage is ahead of that forecasted in Vision 2041. This demonstrates the need to implement our extensive investment programme underpinning the company's masterplan, Vision 2041. These hugely important investments will significantly expand our infrastructure in order to keep pace with our current and predicted customer demand.

“Allied to our investment programme is the urgent need to deliver the Limerick to Foynes Road Scheme and we are heartened to hear that the formal planning process is due to commence before year end. This road is critically important for the planned development of the Port. It will also enhance the national supply chain by creating a seamless connection to Ireland’s deepest water port on the western side of the national motorway network, thereby fully supporting the Government’s regional balance objective by counter balancing Dublin and potentially alleviating some congestion around the GDA.

“With regard to Limerick Docklands, we launched the framework strategy last year with the primary objectives of expanding the working port and to commercialise all of our holdings adjacent to the Dock Road. Limerick Docklands is a very exciting strategy that has the potential to deliver a significant new diversified revenue stream for the Port over the medium to long term and create significant new employment for Limerick City. We are also delighted that the €35m Nautilus Data Centre got the go ahead recently and look forward to promoting more projects in our non-core holdings at Limerick Docklands over the short, medium and long term.”

SFPC Chairman David McGarry said that the success of the company is such that its ambitious investment programme must continue at pace to ensure there is sufficient capacity to accommodate existing growth levels at its directly managed ports. “2018 yet again proved to be a very successful year for Shannon Foynes Port Company, which is one of the key drivers of our region and with huge potential to help rebalance the national economy. The company has had a really strong decade and is delivering on the targets set out in its strategic long-term plan, ‘Vision 2041’.

“Due to the increased tonnage throughput projected in Vision 2041, additional capacity is required. In this regard, the ongoing roll-out of our Investment Program is essential. Following on from the completion of Phase 1 at a cost of €12m in 2016, we received planning permission for the follow-on Phases, II to IV, in December 2018.

“These Phases consist of new quay construction of 117m to join the East and West Jetties, infilling for associated quay set down together with the development of the recently acquired 38 hectares site at Foynes as a port business park. The latter includes the raising of this land by circa 2m for flood mitigation purposes. Construction on this multi annual project will commence in 2019. Funding for the aforementioned is in place and will be sourced from our own reserves, bank debt and the EU Ten-t programme,” he said.

The Chairman stated that the company is satisfied that existing debt, together with new debt, will be well within the financial capacity of the business. Furthermore, much of its existing debt will be fully repaid over the short to medium term.

“Importantly, our investment plans are supported by the EU’s CEF/Ten-t program whereby we have already gained approval for up to €7.5m in EU grant funding. Importantly the EU Commission views SFPC as a core corridor port in the European context,” he added.

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