

WJZ TV CHANNEL 13 (CBS LOCAL)
Port Of Baltimore Spends Millions To Stay Competitive
Alex DeMetrick
October 7, 2014 5:28 PM

BALTIMORE (WJZ) — You could say it's a \$22 million hole in the water but the Port of Baltimore says it's the cost of staying competitive.

Alex DeMetrick reports it all comes down to staying on top.

It may be gentle enough to ripple light but water at the Port of Baltimore's new bigger and deeper auto berth is strong enough to support one thousand pounds per square inch—important when each piece of cargo can weigh two tons or more.

"We're going to have bigger ships, more cargo—and we're ready," said Maryland Secretary of Transportation Jim Smith.

Baltimore already handles more car imports and exports than any other ports in the US: 750,000 last year and maybe 800,000 this year. But to stay on top, it needs an addition to a 70-year-old berth that has been handling car cargo.

"Its useful life is almost expended and we needed to bring this new terminal on," said Port Authority Executive Director Jim White.

A \$22 million terminal to stay ahead of other ports chasing the same business.
"Absolutely. It is fiercely intense," White said.

A new rail line will also be added to this berth, speeding car deliveries from ships to dealerships.
"We will be very, very competitive because we will have speed, speed in unloading ships," Smith said.
"Time is money."

Ships don't make money sitting in port. The faster cargo is turned around, the more attractive a port becomes to shippers and the more money a port makes.

Baltimore's port generates \$3 billion in wages and salaries and \$300 million a year in tax revenues.

BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL
Port of Baltimore opens new \$22M berth for auto shipping
Rick Seltzer
Oct 7, 2014, 1:55pm EDT

A new berth officially opened Tuesday at the Port of Baltimore that could drive more automobile shipping to the city.

The port opened the \$22 million berth at its Masonville/Fairfield Marine Terminal that will be used to load and unload cars and trucks to and from the U.S.. It supplants another berth that had been operating for more than 70 years.

The new berth is larger and stronger than the existing one. Those improvements are important as cargo ships grow in size. It's also important for a terminal that ships a range of vehicles, from Mercedes-Benz, Chrysler, Jeep, Toyota and Fiat automobiles to heavy "roll-on/roll-off" construction equipment.

"That means that bigger, heavier automobiles and roll-on/roll-off machinery can be so much better accommodated," Maryland Transportation Secretary James T. Smith Jr. said on Tuesday.

It also means the port will be able to handle more automobiles. Last year, the port moved more than 750,000 cars between auto shipping terminals at Fairfield and Dundalk — top among U.S. ports. With the new berth open, the port is aiming to ship more than 800,000 cars in future years, Smith said.

The existing berth is still operational, but officials are studying how it should be upgraded in the future. And having two berths should improve efficiency, said Michael Rye, port manager for shipping firm Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, which operates at the location.

"Having two working berths will allow auto manufacturers at Fairfield to see their cars quicker, to load out quicker, to deliver out quicker," he said. "There will hopefully be less berth conflicts, less schedule conflicts."

The new berth measures 1,175-feet long and 130-feet wide. That's almost 300-feet longer and 20-feet wider than the port's existing berth. The new berth can support 1,000 pounds per square inch, ten times the existing berth's load capacity.

The new berth also has rail access, which wasn't available at the existing one.

Tuesday was the official opening for the new berth, when officials donned hard hats and cut ribbons to mark its operation. But work on the berth actually finished in September after two years of construction. It's already received four ships, with the first docking Sept. 19.

CARGO BUSINESS NEWS

Baltimore port opens new auto terminal

October 8, 2014

The Port of Baltimore announced the opening of a new auto berth Tuesday at its Masonville/Fairfield Marine Terminal that replaces one that has been in operation for 70 years. Maryland Transportation Secretary James T. Smith Jr. and the Maryland Port Commission were on hand to mark the occasion.

Standing at 1,175 feet long and 130 feet wide, the new wharf can support 1,000 pounds per-square-inch in contrast to the 100 pounds per-square-inch supported by the old berth. The new structure is also equipped to handle rail transport.

The Port of Baltimore handled more than 750,000 cars last year, more than any other U.S. port, the statement said.

"This new auto berth will further bolster the Port of Baltimore's already strong reputation as the leading auto port in the U.S. and is welcome news for the nearly 1,100 direct jobs that are generated by the Port's auto business," said Smith.

The Port of Baltimore touted its role as the reigning U.S. port for handling autos and light trucks, farm and construction machinery, imported forest products, imported sugar, imported aluminum and imported gypsum.

The Baltimore Sun

Port of Baltimore to open \$22 million auto berth in Fairfield

By Kevin Rector, 5:44 p.m. EDT, October 6, 2014

Officials at the port of Baltimore will convene in Fairfield on Tuesday morning to open a new \$22 million berth for automobile shipments.

The new berth at the Masonville/Fairfield Marine Terminal replaces an older one that had been in operation for more than 70 years, said the Maryland Port Administration, which paid for the project.

It is 300 feet longer and 20 feet wider than the one it replaces, and is equipped with rail access, the MPA said. Officials with international shipping carrier Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, the port's largest automobile and roll-on, roll-off customer, will also be on hand for the opening.

The old berth remains in service for now. It will eventually be renovated and put back into service, giving the terminal two working auto berths, said MPA Director of Communications Richard Scher.

The port of Baltimore handles more automobiles than any other port in the nation. The new berth is the latest local sign of ongoing growth in the sector.

Last month, the port announced a separate, extended five-year deal to continue bringing an estimated \$2.5 billion worth of BMWs to the port, also in partnership with Wallenius.