



Media Release

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Weekly Shipping Connection to Service South Port

South Port Chairman Mr John Harrington commented yesterday "South Port is extremely pleased to learn this week that the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), has elected to introduce a weekly Bluff call. MSC is a serious player in the New Zealand and international markets and their interest in the expanding Southern region of New Zealand is certainly encouraging."

South Port's Chief Executive Mark O'Connor stated "This decision is an exciting development for local businesses that generate or receive international cargo. Despite some economic gloom existing in other parts of the country Southland has continued to demonstrate strong resilience which has been helped by ongoing dairy farming conversion activity. MSC is the second largest container mover in the world and being able to access its shipping services every seven days will create a whole range of new options for regional importers and exporters."

"This new service offering an "industry standard" frequency will support South Port's involvement and growth in the handling of containerised cargo. As a result of adding new infrastructure and implementing additional functions the full range of container support services can be accessed directly at Bluff. This includes container repairs, surveying, monitoring plus the packing and unpacking of cargo," said Mr. O'Connor. He added that the new shipping linkage will open a raft of global market connections through MSC's Singapore hub.

Effective from late May 2008 the vessels committed to the MSC Capricorn service will call at South Port on a weekly cycle. The service will deliver an efficient import option from Australia with Fremantle, Melbourne and Sydney being the last ports visited prior to the Bluff call. Continuing up the East Coast of New Zealand the vessels will then link with Singapore opening up all major international markets including Asia, India, Africa, Europe and North America.

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