

## Media release



### **PORT ELIZABETH CONTAINER TERMINAL CELEBRATES 1 YEAR OF IMPLEMENTING, SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST SKIPTAINER METHOD.**

***[PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa – December 2014]*** The first of its kind Skiptainer method implemented at the Port Elizabeth Container Terminal has impressed its client, Tshipi é Ntle Manganese Mining, with its performance in its first year of implementation. Having started on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2014, the Skiptainer project has proved to maximise productivity and push out higher volumes of manganese. "The target has always been 15 Skips per hour which we were not reaching in the beginning, we were averaging between 10 and 12 Skips, but now we are reaching 21 to 24 Skips per hour", says Amanda Ben-Mazwi, Operations Manager: Transnet Port Terminals PECT.

The Skiptainer method was implemented after a request from Tshipi é Ntle Manganese Mining who were looking for alternative ways of loading manganese. "The Skiptainer method has proven to be beneficial to both the company and the client in that it is a cost-effective method, it is environmentally friendly and allows additional volumes to be exported" According to Chadwick Jansen, Chief Planning and Logistics Manager: Transnet Port Terminals PECT.

Jayson Van Wyk, from Voigt shipping representing Tshipi says, "The client is impressed with the turnaround time. Compared to when implementation started, the implementation of the method has definitely improved over time and is running a lot smoother".

Currently loading 1 vessel per month, operations are hoping to ramp up to 2 vessels as from January 2015. The turn-around target time per vessel is set at 72 hours of which the last 3 vessels were achieved as opposed to the first vessel which took up to 6 days to load. "It takes +- 1482 Skips to fill an average parcel size of a 40 000 ton vessel. Each Skip weighs about 27 tons so it is important that the team works efficiently and distributes the weight equally" Jansen says "With our committed workforce who have embraced this method, we are pleased with the performance".

Ensuring health and safety remains a priority, the team goes through biographical tests every 6 months to evaluate the manganese levels in their systems. In addition, Kevin De Lange, Operator, Lifting Equipment designed a dust curtain currently used on vessel hatches to

protect the environment and reduce dust-fallout along with the imported Dust Suppression System.

With the improved performance, Jansen means that potential clients have shown interest in the Skiptainer method. "I am happy that there are new potential clients on the horizon as we are wanting to expand as the demand for manganese is quite high purely because the South African product is currently the best quality"

Charl Dryer, Skiptainer operator says "although the method was new and it came with its challenges, we are getting better at it. The fact that we are reaching targets motivates us to push harder".

Transnet Port Terminals, Port Elizabeth Container Terminal is the first to use the Skiptainer method in South Africa to load manganese. Australia is the only other country in the world where the Skiptainer method is used, loading coal.

Since its inception, the newly adapted Skiptainer process strategy at the Port Elizabeth Container Terminal has created 24 additional OLE job opportunities for individuals looking to learn, grow and develop within Transnet Port Terminals.

Siya Mhlaluka, General Manager: Eastern Cape Terminals says, "We are pleased that the Port Elizabeth Terminal is successfully contributing positively towards the Market Demand Strategy by creating more jobs and ensuring growth and skills development within the Eastern Cape".

The team members who were hands on during the planning and implementation of the project include: Kevin De Lange, Simthembile Rara, Kaya Nobebe, Zodela Sinalo, William De Jong, Brett Killian and Julius Mtwazi.



Skiptainer team from left: Charl Dreyer, Chadwick Jansen, Louis Rudman, Xola Gunya, Amanda Zungula, Wonder Dwanugeu, Lulama Mpambo, Xolile Batyo, Michiel Delpont and Marius Bates.



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***Issued by Corporate Affairs Manager: Eastern Cape***

**About the Author**

Transnet Port Terminals is a division of Transnet SOC Limited, South Africa's state-owned freight transport and handling company.

It provides efficient and reliable cargo-handling services at terminals situated across seven South African ports – Durban, Richards Bay, Cape Town, Saldanha, Port Elizabeth, Ngqura and East London. TPT customers include shipping lines, freight forwarders and cargo owners.

Operations cover import and export operations across the following cargo sectors: Containers, Mineral Bulk and the Agricultural Bulk and RoRo Sector.

Karl Socikwa is the Chief Executive. The company has a staff complement of over 6000.

For information, visit [www.transnetportterminals.net](http://www.transnetportterminals.net)

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