

MPW SUPPLY CHAIN - INDUSTRY UPDATE - 14TH MARCH 2025

OCEANFREIGHT | AIRFREIGHT | LOCAL TRANSPORT | WAREHOUSING/3PL | COURIER |

AUSTRALIA & NZ NEWS

ACCC WARNS AGAINST DP WORLD'S SILK TAKEOVER

The ACCC is concerned that DP World Australia's proposed acquisition of Silk Logistics could lead to higher prices and reduced quality for Australian importers and exporters. The ACCC is reviewing DP World Australia's ability to increase terminal fees or worsen terminal services for competitors. They are also assessing the potential for below-cost transportation prices and the misuse of commercially sensitive data. Submissions from interested parties are invited by 27 March 2025. [The DCN](#)

MINISTER WARNS US THAT AUSTRALIA HAS OTHER BUYERS FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

The Albanese government is warning the Trump administration that Australia has alternative partners in Europe and Asia for critical minerals development. Resources Minister Madeleine King emphasized the high demand for these minerals and the potential for partnerships with other nations. The government is preparing to work with countries other than the US to expand extraction and processing of materials critical for green energy and defense systems. [ABC](#)

VICTORIA MOVING GRAIN FROM ROAD TO RAIL

The Victorian government aims to shift more grain movement to rail from road. The Barnes Junction grain terminal will connect to rail for the first time in 30 years, reducing truck reliance. The \$10 million upgrade of the Echuca-Barnes-Deniliquin freight corridor will support longer, faster, heavier trains. The government has invested \$368 million since 2020 in rail freight maintenance to grow volumes on rail. [The DCN](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN NEWS

ANALYSING THE MV SOLONG AND MV STENA IMMACULATE INCIDENT

The collision between MV Solong and MV Stena Immaculate in the North Sea resulted in tragic loss of life. Poor visibility and potential fatigue of the crew were contributing factors. The investigation will focus on bridge watchkeeping practices, radar and AIS effectiveness, and crew fatigue. The maritime industry must learn from this incident to prevent future tragedies. Vigilance, situational awareness, and adherence to navigational principles are crucial. The DCN

CYBER-ATTACKS A BIGGER THREAT TO CARGO OWNERS THAN CARGO SHIPS

Shipping supply chains face increasing cyber-attacks, with 25% of companies lacking cyber-risk insurance. Ransomware attacks, often targeting cargo, have become a cost of doing business. Despite fears of targeted 'hacktivism,' most attacks are financially motivated. High-profile ship crashes are usually due to poor seamanship or maintenance. Critical infrastructure cyber-attacks are more likely onshore. [The Loadstar](#)

US AUTOMAKERS FEAR 'DOUBLE-WHAMMY' COST HIKES WITH LATEST TARIFFS

US automakers face higher production costs due to 25% tariffs on imported steel and aluminium. The tariffs, effective today, are expected to hit American consumers hardest. Businesses seek carve-outs or delays, with the automotive sector particularly vocal. The US imported \$19.5bn worth of Canadian steel last year, now costing \$24.3bn. Automakers rely on Cleveland-Cliffs and US Steel, with concerns over potential monopolies and price hikes. [The Loadstar](#)

WILL CHINA-UPGRADED HAPAG-LLOYD SHIPS RUN FOUL OF TRUMP?

Hapag-Lloyd is upgrading its Copiapo-class vessels at Cosco Zhoushan Shipyard in China, increasing capacity from 9,324 teu to 10,200 teu. The upgrades include raising lashing bridges, funnels, and deckhouses. This follows similar upgrades to Tubul-class vessels in Denmark. However, the US Ships for America Act may impose a 200% duty on repairs in Chinese yards, raising concerns about potential penalties for Hapag-Lloyd's vessels. [The Loadstar](#)

SHIP'S CAPTAIN ARRESTED AFTER CARGO SHIP COLLISION WITH TANKER

A 59-year-old man has been arrested for gross negligence manslaughter after a collision between an oil tanker and container vessel in the North Sea. One crew member is presumed dead. The fire on MV Steena Immaculate was extinguished, but the blaze on MV Solong continues. Humberside Police and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency are investigating. The tanker, managed by Crowley, sustained a ruptured cargo tank, spilling fuel into the sea. [The Loadstar](#)

STRONG RESULT ENCOURAGES YANG MING PLAN TO DEPLOY UP TO 13 VESSELS

Yang Ming Marine Transport Corporation reported strong operational performance in 2024, with revenues of US\$6.94 billion and a net profit of US\$1,999.35 million. Factors like vessel rerouting due to the Red Sea crisis and port congestion helped absorb excess capacity. The company optimized its service network and fleet deployment, ensuring reliability and capitalizing on market opportunities. Yang Ming plans to deploy dual-fuel vessels to enhance competitiveness and sustainability. [The DCN](#)

WIDER SHIPMENT VISIBILITY IN PORTS COULD BE THE ANSWER TO CONGESTION

Enhanced customs declarations, providing shipment details not later than 24 hours before being loaded onto a US-bound vessel, have been required by the US since 9/11. This year sees the EU's final phase of a similar system. Logistics software service provider Trade Tech's president, Bryn Heimbeck, believes the data supplied offers the answer to mounting congestion issues across global ports. [The Loadstar](#)

AIRFREIGHT FORWARDING A BETTER BET THAN OCEAN FOR INVESTMENT THIS YEAR

Forwarders focused on airfreight will fare better this year than those with higher exposure to ocean freight. Jefferies prefers DHL and DSV over Kuehne + Nagel due to airfreight's favorable market dynamics. DHL's leading position in integrated air and recent cost control measures make it well-positioned. DSV's acquisition of DB Schenker is expected to bring significant synergies. Kuehne + Nagel faces challenges due to its heavy exposure to ocean freight. [The Loadstar](#)

FIRST SIGNS OF E-COMMERCE UNCERTAINTY IN FEBRUARY AIRFREIGHT FIGURES

The first signs of the impact of stricter e-commerce requirements were visible in February's air cargo data. Xeneta reported a 4% year-on-year increase in air cargo demand, with a 10% rise in average spot freight rates. However, rates from Shanghai to the US fell by 29% due to the removal of the de minimis exemption on Chinese shipments. This may indicate regulatory changes affecting the air cargo market. [Air Cargo News](#)

US AIRFORWARDERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS 'HIGHLY CONCERNED' ABOUT TARIFF IMPACT

The US Airforwarders Association (AfA) warns that sudden tariffs create uncertainty. A survey at AirCargo 2025 revealed 62% of members are highly concerned. AfA executive director Brandon Fried calls for more warning to prepare supply chains. Sudden changes, like the proposed 25% Colombian tariff, damage the supply chain. Reciprocal tariffs could hinder bilateral agreements, risking import/export uncertainty. This could trouble the US economy, consumers, and airfreight forwarders. [Air Cargo News](#)

TREAD CAREFULLY WHEN GOING MULTIMODAL

Embracing multimodal logistics offers opportunities but requires careful relationship management with other logistics stakeholders. Business relationships can be tricky for traditionally single-mode transport companies branching out into multimodal solutions. Companies like MSC Air Cargo have evolved from ocean shipping to end-to-end logistics. Multimodal solutions are key to supporting economic growth, with each part of the supply chain playing its role. [Air Cargo News](#)