

Energy Minister visits Port of Dundee

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Business, Energy and Tourism Minister visits the Port of Dundee

Scotland's Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism, Fergus Ewing MSP, visited the Port of Dundee to see for himself the key role that the port is playing in the important North Sea Oil and Gas sector. The port has seen between £5-£10million of investment over the past two years, including a new facility for specialist offshore fabrication operator Rigmar as well as bespoke warehousing for PD&MS and Harlen. Over £1million has also been invested in a specialist decommissioning business located at the port called Dundee Decommissioning.

Commenting on the visit, **Charles Hammond, Group Chief Executive of Forth Ports** (owners of the Port of Dundee) said: *"This was a timely opportunity for us to update Mr Ewing on the significant investment we have made in Dundee to meet the increasing work demand from the North Sea Oil and Gas industry, which is playing an increasingly important role in the local economy.*

"The tax cuts announced by the Chancellor in the budget this week are welcome news for operators in the sector and for many of our customers at the port of Dundee who service the North Sea oil and gas industry. The simplification of investment will stimulate the explorations activity which will ultimately benefit the port and its customers. Dundee is now a major player in this sector and is well known for its excellent capabilities and skills in the servicing, maintenance and decommissioning of offshore vessels and exploration rigs."

Energy Minister Fergus Ewing MSP said: *"It was very insightful for me to be able to visit the Port of Dundee to meet with Forth Ports and to hear their intention to develop the port to support existing activities including agriculture, construction, the whisky, offshore wind and oil and gas industries. The energy sector represents a huge opportunity for Scotland to reap both economic benefits and the decommissioning of North Sea assets presents a huge opportunity for the Scottish oil and gas supply chain. I had a tour of the port and met with some of the manufacturers and got an understanding of how this diverse range of activities operates alongside one another."*

"The Scottish Government will continue to work with Forth Ports and Dundee City Council to continue to grow the business at the port for the benefit of the local and national economy. The Scottish Government is committed to working with the industry to mobilise investment by the oil and gas supply chain to ensure that the Total Value Added from decommissioning expenditure is optimised, generating both jobs and growth for the Scottish economy."

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Further information:

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About the Port of Dundee

- The Port of Dundee, owned by Forth Ports Limited, is the key location for the inspection, repair and maintenance of jack-up and semisubmersible drilling rigs and offshore supply and dive support vessels in Scotland. The port is recognised by the North Sea Oil and Gas industry as an important base for fabrication, mobilisation and demobilisation projects. The wide navigation channel, and deep water facilities at the port make it attractive for the large jack-up rig and support vessel activity that the port regularly sees.
- The Port is home to Rigmar Fabrication, PD&MS Energy, Harlen, James Jack lifting services and several other support companies who provide a fully complement range of project services throughout a call.
- Dundee is a 365 day / 24hr working facility that offers rig and vessel operators extensive quayside access and heavy lift capability for major projects, in conjunction with expansive storage areas capable of accommodating the largest projects and a full scope of project management requirements.

About Forth Ports Limited

- Forth Ports owns and operates eight commercial ports in the UK – Tilbury on the Thames, Dundee on the Firth of Tay and six on the Firth of Forth – Leith, Grangemouth, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.
- Within and around the Firths of Forth and Tay, Forth Ports manages and operates an area of 280 square miles of navigable waters, including two specialised marine terminals for oil and gas export and provides other marine services, such as towage and conservancy.
- As the only port operator in the United Kingdom that can offer direct access to two capital cities. The business is investing significantly in the cruise operations with a multimillion pound renovation project underway at the historic London cruise terminal to upgrade the facilities and increase the capacity to accommodate larger vessels.
- www.forthports.co.uk