

FLINDERS PORT HOLDINGS PLANS MAJOR INVESTMENT IN TERMINAL UPGRADES TO ENHANCE CAPACITY & EFFICIENCY

Flinders Adelaide Container Terminal (FACT) is set to undergo a significant transformation with a comprehensive investment exceeding \$350 million, aimed at enhancing its operational capacity and efficiency. Flinders Port Holdings (FPH) has established a dedicated Program of Works and team (GatewaySA) to manage the planning and delivery of the works over the next 3 years.

Trent Kolbig – FACT General Manager said “The GatewaySA Program of Works represents a major sustaining capital upgrade for FACT, which has been the only container terminal in South Australia since its opening in 1978.”

The Program of Works consists of individual projects that include:

- The procurement of two additional Super Post Panamax Ship to Shore (STS) Cranes
- Upgrades to IT systems including Terminal Operating System (TOS), Depot Operating System (DOS) and Vehicle Booking System (VBS)
- New Terminal access and egress including upgraded gate technology
- Expansion of the Empty Container Depot by developing adjacent land
- New sitewide services, pavements and hardstands
- Berth extension and remediation
- Proof of Concept of an ARTG operating mode

Increasing Capacity

With the purchase of two additional Super Post Panamax STS Cranes, plus the 135-metre extension to Berth 6, FACT will be able to service two 366-meter vessels simultaneously. This increased capacity will instil confidence for our shipping line customers and highlight that new services and larger vessels will be serviced productively.

FPH has engaged McConnell Dowell in an Early Contractor Involvement delivery model for the berth extension and additional remediation.

Commencement of onsite works at Berth 6 is due to commence Quarter 3 – 2025, with completion expected late 2026. Delivery of the STS Cranes is anticipated Quarter 1 – 2027.

Expansion of Empty Container Depot

By developing adjacent land to the Terminal, the Empty Container Depot will double in capacity increasing both full and empty reefer capacity to over one hundred reefer points. This enhancement will benefit shipping lines, transport companies and South Australian importers and exporters.

Early civil works have commenced onsite with the land available for the expansion by early 2026.

Expansion of the Empty Container Depot supports the increased capacity of FACT benefitting South Australia by improving access to more global markets making the State more competitive.

Adopting New Technology

Implementation of modern IT Systems including a new TOS, DOS, VBS and Gate Operating System, will ensure FACT meets current security requirements and is prepared for the adoption of new technology.

Investing in these systems will improve the customer experience, cargo visibility and operational efficiency, future-proofing the South Australian supply chain.

In addition to the IT systems, the GatewaySA Program of Works will also establish a Proof-of-Concept (PoC) Auto Rubber Tyre Gantry (ARTG) test area. In March 2022, the FPH long-term Masterplan identified a need to perform a detailed assessment of the future of landside operations for FACT. This assessment examined eight operating options; each option was scored using weighted Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA). The options examined were:

- Sustainability impact
- Terminal capacity and operational performance
- Spatial requirements
- Development cost
- Operating cost

- Stage ability and flexibility
- Delivery and operational risk

The MCA concluded that an ARTG was the best option for FACT.

The ARTG PoC will introduce the latest container handling technology promoting safer, more sustainable and efficient operations. By introducing one ARTG and associated test block stack, this will allow strenuous testing to be conducted. The testing of the new ARTG operating mode will occur simultaneously alongside current FACT operations. “Collaboration between the GatewaySA and FACT Teams will be crucial to ensure minimal impact and no reduction in operational performance.” Said Josh Smith – GatewaySA Program Director.

Continuing to Deliver Safe & Efficient Service

While GatewaySA is preparing the Terminal for the future, it remains essential to ensure existing operations continue to deliver efficient and safe service to customers. Maintaining terminal operations throughout the delivery phase of the Program of Works, is a key success factor for GatewaySA.

In addition to the GatewaySA investment, FPH has invested \$40 million in upgraded plant to secure continuous and efficient operations. This investment includes fourteen hybrid straddle carriers over the last three years. In the last 12 months three Konecranes Reach Stackers and three Konecranes Empty Container Handlers have also been purchased, all with improved performance in operations, safety and sustainability.

Working collaboratively with the FACT Team, the GatewaySA Team will deliver a sustainable container terminal to meet the growing needs of FPH and South Australia well into the future.

