

New pulp and paper terminal for Port of Tarragona

EUROPORTS Iberica, Tarragona, Spain

EUROPORTS Iberica (previously TPS Tarragona Port Services) is a company that has operated in the Port of Tarragona for more than 40 years. It became part of the EUROPORTS Group in March 2007.

The Port of Tarragona is situated on the western Mediterranean Sea between the ports of Barcelona and Valencia. Today it is the fifth largest port in Spain, but even in these difficult economic times it has large ambitions to increase its volumes and position in the Mediterranean market, based on a strategy of targeted investment and partnership with the private sector. The most important step is the development of the new DP World container terminal, which is attracting significant new business to the Tarragona region.

Tarragona Port has traditionally focussed on heavy traffic to support the industrial hinterland of the Cataluña region in Spain. As a result, Tarragona is a leading port in handling heavy dry bulk materials such as coal, liquids and petroleum. A new area of the Port is now being developed, focussing more on consumer-based activities such as cars, containers and logistics. These developments are all being centred in a new and clean area of the port. Within this zone EUROPORTS Iberica is developing a brand new terminal dedicated to forest products, steel and project cargo.

Historically, forest products in Spain have been handled via a variety of small regional ports serving specific parts of the market. These ports have not been able to develop the economies of scale as happened at large terminals in northern Europe, and this has impacted on the competitiveness of the Spanish paper industry. Currently, large ships from South America have to make multiple port calls around the coast of Spain, adding significant cost to the supply chain. Existing terminals do not have the critical mass and consequently are cost inefficient.

The Westerlund Group, now 100 percent part of EUROPORTS, is a world leader in the handling and logistics of paper, pulp and other forest products and provides a complete service to industry through its marine terminals in Antwerp, Rouen and Changshu. Together with the other EUROPORTS terminals in Finland and Germany, the company now handles over 10 million tonnes of forest products annually.

The new Westerlund Iberica terminal in Tarragona will be equipped with specialised forklifts to handle pulp and paper, and has been designed to the highest quality standards with the knowledge and experience gained from within the Group.

The new Westerlund Iberica terminal will comprise of:

- A total area of 6 ha
- Four 8,500m² warehouses
- Draught of 16.5m



The 7,000m² pulp and paper warehouse on the Castella quay, Westerlund Iberica terminal, at the Port of Tarragona (bottom image shows warehouse interior).

- Warehouses directly adjacent to the quay
- Liebherr LH400 mobile harbour crane
- Capacity of 500,000 tpa.

Tarragona is perfectly located to serve the Spanish paper market, being the closest port to the Ebro River corridor where the majority of Spain's paper mills are located. This natural advantage has not been exploited before, due to a lack of facilities in the port and the location of those warehouses closest to the coal terminals.

Presently, Westerlund Iberica is operating a dedicated 7,000m² pulp and paper warehouse on the Castella quay, where the company is beginning to handle South American wood pulp. Westerlund Iberica provides its clients with a full range of services including:

- Stevedoring
- Storage
- Stuffing and stripping of containers
- Inventory management, tracing and tracking
- Customs clearance and fiscal agency
- Value added logistics: re-packing, palletizing, etc
- Personalized customer service desk.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

EUROPORTS Iberica and its predecessors have been operating in the Port of Tarragona for some 40 years. It is a leading terminal operator on the Mediterranean Sea for dry bulk products and specifically operates the largest coal terminal in the region.

EUROPORTS Iberica is part of EUROPORTS, a leading European port operator who handles some 55 million tonnes annually through its 21 European port terminals.

ENQUIRIES

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