



PRESS RELEASE

DUNKERQUE-PORT ENTRUSTS THE OPERATION OF ITS FUTURE RAIL-ROAD TRANSHIPMENT TERMINAL TO THE MODALIS GROUP

After a Call for Expression of Interest (EOI), **Dunkerque-Port** has selected the **MODALIS** Group to operate the rail-road transshipment terminal currently under construction at the western port. Intended for combined rail/road transport, this terminal will enable road trailers and swap bodies (ITUs) to be carried by train over long distances, thereby reducing the use of road-only transport. As a more sustainable logistics alternative, road/rail transshipment is a key lever to decongest the roads, reduce CO₂ emissions and optimise the flow of goods. This strategic new infrastructure will be commissioned in March 2026.



A KEY LEVER FOR LOGISTICS APPEAL AND THE MODAL SHIFT OF TRAFFIC FLOWS IN THE REGION

Situated on a 9.6 - hectare plot of land, along the Loon railway, in the immediate vicinity of the Great-Britain/Ireland roll-on/roll-off terminals and the new economic activity zones, this new terminal will be a key tool to decongest the road network and accelerate the energy transition of logistics flows.

It is aimed in priority at unaccompanied transported goods: semi-trailers, swap bodies and intermodal transport units (ITUs) from the port's roll-on/roll-off service traffic as well as flows generated by the very many logistics and industrial activities situated in the Dunkirk region and beyond.

With a processing capacity of up to four 750-metre trains a day, the facility will enable up to 50,000 ITUs to be removed from the road each year from 2032, accounting for nearly 70,000 tonnes of CO₂ avoided. It will offer an efficient and sustainable alternative for transport chains while helping facilitate the port's road traffic flows.

This new facility is part and parcel of the region's decarbonisation trajectory defined collectively by all its private and public stakeholders. It is consistent with the targets set by the French Climate and Resilience Law as well as the ambitions of the European Green Pact which aims for carbon neutrality by 2050.

A TERMINAL SUPPORTING THE ENERGY TRANSITION TO BE OPERATIONAL IN EARLY 2026

The project will begin in August with the creation of a roundabout at the north of the site, followed by the construction of the multimodal platform, for an estimated overall joint investment of around €25 million. The site's operation will generate up to 15 jobs by 2030.

Besides handling ITUs, the terminal will also host value-added activities such as washing, swap body and semi-trailer maintenance and minor rail maintenance.

AN INITIAL INTERNATIONAL CONNECTION AS SOON AS IT OPENS

The MODALIS Group is already preparing a regular connection between northern Italy and Dunkirk via its subsidiary DELTA RAIL (combined transport operator). It will be operational from the terminal's inauguration in March 2026. This rail connection will be along the major European logistics corridors, strengthening Dunkirk's strategic position as the multimodal gateway to northern Europe.

This terminal will be public and also receive other operators' trains, in an aim to open up and pool flows.

“This new terminal represents a major opportunity for modal shift, not only for transporters using the port’s roll-on/roll-off services but also for the entire industrial and logistics ecosystem. It marks significant progress towards the decarbonisation of transport chains, in a manner that’s perfectly consistent with the regional stakeholders’ strategy aiming towards carbon neutrality by 2050,” says **Maurice Georges**, Chairman of the **Dunkerque-Port** executive board.

“There is complementarity between the logistics, port and rail ecosystems which is one of the major challenges of decarbonisation. The seaports have an essential role to play in intermodal arbitrations: 80% of goods arrive through them and the choice is then made to use rail, water or road transport. Equipping the ports with modern modal shift infrastructure and efficient handling vehicles will guarantee mass freight demand throughout France. The MODALIS Group is very proud to be able to contribute alongside Dunkerque-Port to this decarbonisation project and strengthen its ecosystem through the use of multimodal terminals,” emphasises **Bernard Meï**, MODALIS Group Chairman.

ABOUT DUNKERQUE-PORT



Dunkirk is the leading French port complex in cooperation with the other seaports in the Hauts-de-France region. Its ecosystem today incorporates many maritime, logistics and industrial activities with the commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. More sustainable and more resilient, the port is the no. 1 European energy platform. The development of a Europe-wide benchmark low-carbon industrial zone is the perfect illustration of this. It is based on the decarbonisation of existing industrial processes, the circular economy and green reindustrialisation, of which the Dunkirk region is one of the pioneers. With its ecosystem built around electric mobility, Dunkerque-Port is the heart of the Hauts-de-France electric battery valley. Its platform of innovative solutions combined with the development of container and logistics capacity and the multimodal transport network is creating new prospects for the region. In total, the port generates annual added value of €3.8 billion with a total of 29,000 direct, indirect and resulting jobs. By 2030, the new developments underway in the industrial/port region will have enabled the creation of 20,000 additional jobs.

ABOUT THE MODALIS GROUP



MODALIS is a family-owned group founded in 2002 by Bernard Meï, the current Chairman. It supports projects to decarbonise the supply chain through modal shift and new energies. With its established reputation for technical expertise in intermodal transport equipment, the Group’s activities have been enhanced with a view to offering integrated logistics solutions. Innovation and development are the driving forces of the Group, whose mission is to speed up the decarbonisation of freight transport. MODALIS was named ‘Growth Champion’ in 2024 by Les Echos. For more information, visit: <https://www.modalis.com/>

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