

# OPM appointed as project manager for Bandar Abbas

Tidewater Middle East Marine Services, the container terminal operator at the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, has appointed OPM (Overseas Port Management Singapore Pte Ltd) project manager.

The two companies now jointly manage the gateway's fast-growing Shahid Rajaei Container Terminal (SRCT), whose volumes increased from 731,000TEU in 2002 to 1.3 million TEU in 2005. The number of global and regional carriers calling there with direct services has increased in the last few years.

A Ch Jahan, Tidewater Middle East Marine Services' Tehran-based container and transit affairs manager, told *CI*: 'For SRCT to gain a higher international profile as a regional transshipment hub, Tidewater decided to tap the expertise and market connections of an operator and manager proven in building transshipment business.

'We believe OPM can

help SRCT raise productivity and terminal capacity, accelerate the turnaround of ships at berths, and build up its status as a strong regional transshipment terminal for countries in the Mid-East Gulf, as well as neighbouring countries to the north, around the Caspian Sea.'

Jahan explained that OPM was founded in 2003 by managing director MMJ Subramaniam and other former senior PSA executives. He added that OPM helped Aden

Container Terminal in Yemen regain its status as a significant transshipment terminal when it suffered a big loss of confidence and throughput in 2003.

Meanwhile, Jahan revealed that the first phase of the construction of the planned second container terminal at Bandar Abbas is scheduled for completion in March 2007.

This will comprise 850m of quay, with a 17m depth, a 70ha container yard and eight super-post-panamax gantry cranes. A tender will be issued for operation of the terminal, for which Tidewater is interested in bidding.

Phase two of the project is expected to be completed after 2009, providing 2,050m of additional quay length (with a depth alongside of 16m), and a 140ha container yard.

Following this expansion, the total annual capacity at Bandar Abbas will exceed 6 million TEU.

