

## **Wallenius Wilhelmsen Adds Another Service from Galveston**

Wallenius Wilhelmsen is scheduled to begin a new direct service from the Port of Galveston to the Middle East in the first half of 2004, giving the Port of Galveston connections to almost every major continent in the world.

The new sailings will be part of Wallenius Wilhelmsen's second round-the-world service, continuing on from the Middle East to Far East discharge ports, loading ports in Korea and Japan, and then through the Panama Canal back to Georgia and Galveston. This new service compliments existing services from Galveston to North Europe and the East Coast of South America.

Additionally, using Wallenius Wilhelmsen's global network, cargo from ports in Central and South America that need to be shipped to the Middle or Far East can be transferred to this new service at the Port of Galveston.

"When Wallenius Wilhelmsen relocated its Gulf operations to Galveston in 1995, we were optimistic about the economic impact that would be created for the Galveston community from their service to North Europe," said Steven M. Cernak, Galveston Port Director. "Now the number of services from Galveston has increased and their alliances with other carriers have brought additional ships calls from sister company American Roll-on, Roll-off Carrier. As this business grows, we are working with Wallenius Wilhelmsen to take care of their needs and assist with the growth of their business here in Galveston."

In addition to the Port of Galveston, cargo will be loaded at Baltimore, Savannah, and Jacksonville, and be unloaded or discharged at Jeddah, Dubai, Dammam and Kuwait. The discharge ports in the Far East are Singapore and Shanghai. Two sailings per month will be offered in the new schedule, with continuing service to the Far East

The vessels in the service will be some of the fleet's faster, more-advanced pure car-truck carriers and roll-on, roll-off ships for transport of rolling stock and non-containerized, breakbulk and project cargo.

Wallenius Wilhelmsen and its affiliates have rolled out several new services from Galveston in the past year. Its sister company American Roll-on Roll-off carrier launched a U.S. Gulf and East Coast-Mediterranean monthly service from the Port of Galveston to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in September 2003. Also last year, Wallenius Wilhelmsen began a ro-ro service between Galveston and Brazil with a 22-day frequency. Connections for South American cargo to the Middle East and Far East can be made.

"Galveston is fast be coming one of our key hubs," stated Knut Kringlen, trade and business generation manager at Wallenius Wilhelmsen. "We find its lack of congestion and its location in the Gulf to be a benefit for us because there are no delays going in and out of port."

During 2003, Wallenius Wilhelmsen unloaded over 100,000 tons of cargo equating to over 22,000 pieces of equipment, primarily construction and farm equipment at the Port of Galveston.

The Port of Galveston is preparing a new facility at Pier 34 for Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines. The scheduled completion is projected for the second quarter of 2004. The Pier 30/33 warehouse has been demolished and the Pier 35 warehouse is under demolition. The terminal area will then be fenced and paved and security lighting will be installed.