

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TAILWIND MAKES NORTHPORT ITS INTRA-ASIA REGIONAL HUB**

**PORT KLANG, 9 October 2025** – Northport (Malaysia) Bhd (“Northport”), a subsidiary of MMC Port Holdings Berhad (“MMC Ports”), has been chosen by Tailwind Shipping Lines (“Tailwind”) as its Intra-Asia Regional Hub. A launch ceremony, graced by YB Tuan Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport Malaysia, was held at Northport. Also present at the ceremony were Ms. Ulrike Wolf, Deputy Head of Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to Malaysia, Dato’ Seri Jana Santhiran Muniayan, Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport Malaysia and Capt. K. Subramaniam General Manager of Port Klang Authority, together with senior officials from Malaysian Government agencies, industry partners, customers and port stakeholders.

“The establishment of Tailwind’s Intra-Asia Regional Hub at Northport reflects the strong confidence that international players have in Malaysia’s ports, infrastructure, and logistics capabilities. The Ministry of Transport remains committed to fostering a conducive environment for international shipping lines to thrive in Malaysia. Through continuous improvements in port efficiency, digitalisation and sustainability, we aim to further strengthen Malaysia’s position as a leading regional maritime and logistics hub,” said YB Tuan Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport Malaysia.

The German-based container carrier Tailwind was founded in 2022 by one of Europe’s leading discount retailers, Lidl. Its Panda Express Service (PAX) connects China and Europe via a stop at Port Klang. Including the Malaysian port in the sailing schedule as the PAX’s last port of call in Asia underlines the company’s commitment to making the international supply chains even more resilient and stronger – especially for time-critical goods. At Northport, Tailwind also offers transshipment of goods to and from its Tiger Express Service (TEX), which sails between Port Klang, Colombo, Chattogram and Ho Chi Minh.

“Northport has the robust, well-established infrastructure needed for dependable, high-volume operations. It is a port built for performance, and that is why it is the ideal partner for Tailwind,” said Christian Stangl, CEO of Tailwind Shipping Lines. “Our aim is to secure international supply chains and strengthen our parent company’s sovereignty. This is a promise we offer to all our customers. Northport is more than a service provider to us. We have found a team that thinks ahead and acts proactively to find solutions. In short: it is an ecosystem of reliability.”

Tailwind currently operates a fleet of 11 vessels connecting Asia to Europe via:

- **Panda Express Service (PAX)** sailing from China to the Mediterranean with a stop at its new regional hub at Northport, Port Klang
- **Tiger Express Service (TEX)** connecting Bangladesh, Malaysia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka
- The **Dolphin Express Service (DEX)** transports goods between Barcelona in Spain and Moerdijk in the Netherlands. On its south-bound leg, it has been recently expanded to a European short sea service calling also at ports in Belgium, Portugal, Spain and Morocco

With its focus on speed, reliability and schedule consistency, Tailwind has selected Northport as its Intra-Asia Regional Hub, underscoring the confidence it places in Port Klang, Malaysia's leading gateway port. This development comes at a timely moment for Port Klang, which was recently ranked 10th in the Lloyd's List 2025 Top 100 Ports, cementing its position among the world's top ten busiest container ports for the first time.

"The launch of Tailwind's Intra Asia Regional Hub at Port Klang marks a significant milestone, not only for Tailwind and Northport but also for Malaysia's maritime industry. This initiative strengthens Port Klang's role as a regional hub and highlights the value of collaboration between global shipping lines and Malaysian ports in enhancing connectivity, resilience, and sustainable growth. At MMC Ports, we view this partnership as a strong vote of confidence in our operational efficiency, service reliability and commitment to continuous improvement. We look forward to supporting Tailwind's growth and delivering greater value to their customers, while contributing to Malaysia's aspiration of becoming a leading maritime nation." said Dato' Azman Shah Mohd Yusof, Chief Executive Officer of MMC Ports.

The partnership between Northport and Tailwind is expected to further enhance Port Klang's position as Malaysia's premier maritime gateway and preferred logistics hub for the Asian region, offering faster connections, greater supply chain reliability and stronger links between Asia and Europe.



*Photo caption: YB Tuan Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport Malaysia, (seventh from left), Ms. Ulrike Wolf, Deputy Head of Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to Malaysia (fifth from left), Dato' Azman Shah Mohd Yusof, CEO of MMC Ports (sixth from left), Christian Stangl, CEO of Tailwind Shipping Lines GmbH & Co. KG (seventh from right), Dato' Seri Jana Santhiran Muniayan, Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport Malaysia (sixth from right), Capt. K. Subramaniam General Manager of Port Klang Authority (fifth from right) and Nik Muzani Nik Abdul Aziz, Acting CEO of Northport (Malaysia) Bhd (fourth from left) pictured during the Official Launch of Tailwind's Intra-Asia Regional Hub at Northport, Port Klang on 9 October 2025.*

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### **About Northport (Malaysia) Bhd**

*Northport (Malaysia) Bhd (Northport) is one of the largest multi-purpose gateway ports of its kind in the national ports system. Northport is grouped under MMC Port Holdings Berhad (MMC Ports), Malaysia's largest port operating group. MMC Ports is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MMC Corporation Berhad, a leading utilities and infrastructure group with diversified businesses under four divisions, namely Ports and Logistics, Energy and Utilities, Engineering and Industrial Development.*

*Northport offers dedicated facilities and services to handle a wide variety of cargoes ranging from containers to cars, break bulk cargoes as well as liquid and dry bulk cargoes of all types and shipment sizes.*

*With a historical tradition dating back more than 120 years, Northport plays an important role in the development of the Malaysian economy and the country's burgeoning international trade.*

*Northport is the recipient of the "Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Practitioner with Best Integrity" Special Award at the Integrity, Governance, and Anti-corruption Awards ("AIGA") 2023, Anugerah Perdana Penarafan Bintang Sasaran Penting (APBSP) 2023 under the Key Point II category, British Safety Council's International Safety Awards (Merit) in 2023 and winner of the International Association of Ports and Harbors ("IAPH") 2022 Sustainability Award, under the Health Safety and Security category, the first Malaysian port to receive the prestigious international award from IAPH, Northport is also the winner of the Best Port Safety Management Award from the Ministry of Transport Malaysia in 2021.*

*Northport is the Gold Award winner of the Integrity, Governance and Anti-corruption Awards ("AIGA") 2022 and 2023, and winner of the National Occupational Safety and Health ("NOSH") Award 2020/2021 in the Business Services, Mentor-Mentee (Mentor) and the CEO of the Year (Private Sector) categories, NOSH Award 2019 in the Business Services category and Malaysia's Best Seaport - Outstanding Performance Award in the Port category presented by the Ministry of Transport Malaysia for two consecutive years, in conjunction with the Malaysia World Maritime Week 2016 and 2017.*

*Northport also holds the distinction of being the first port in Malaysia to be awarded the ISO 45001:2018 for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems in 2019 and ISO 37001:2016 Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) in 2021.*

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### **About Tailwind Shipping Lines**

*Since its inception in 2022, Tailwind has evolved from a shipping company with one service between Asia and Europe to a premium logistics partner, covering the entire supply chain. With its smart customer-centric solutions, Tailwind transforms traditional supply chains into genuine value chains – from the factory floor to the store shelf. Tailwind values partnerships and puts their customers at the focus of their business. Using state-of-the-art technology, the company guarantees its customers a high level of transparency throughout the transport process. Intelligent, seamlessly integrated solutions allow Tailwind customers to plan ahead better, thereby giving them a clear competitive advantage*

*Founded during the pandemic by one of Europe's leading discount retailers to ensure punctual deliveries between Asia and Europe, it has granted its parent company Lidl greater independence and sovereignty when it comes to the supply and distribution of goods. Thanks to only a few port calls, on-time arrivals are what sets Tailwind apart. At the same time, the company puts their customers' need at the forefront of everything they do.*

*The aim of the shipping company is to get goods on the shelves in time. In 31 countries, the parent company Lidl relies on punctual deliveries for their weekly assortment of new middle-of-the-aisle*

*products, which customers across Europe are expecting in the stores as announced. This essential promise of reliability benefits not only Lidl – but also Tailwind's customers from other industries.*

*Tailwind Shipping Lines operates three liner services: the Panda Express (PAX) service between China and the Mediterranean; the Tiger Express (TEX) service between Bangladesh, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka; and the Dolphin Express (DEX) service, which transports goods between Barcelona and Moerdijk in the Netherlands. By using smaller container ships in its PAX service that can transport up to 7,000 TEU, Tailwind Shipping Lines can call at less busy ports near major trading hubs, which facilitates short turnaround times without delays. For Tailwind customers, this means shorter transit times for their goods.*