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APM Terminals Gothenburg gives notice of 160 redundancies

Due to a sharp fall in volumes over the past year, 160 members of staff are being given notice of termination at APM Terminals Gothenburg in the Port of Gothenburg. The operation will be run on a two-shift basis without night-time service as soon as the redundancy negotiations are completed.

“This has been a difficult but necessary decision. We are in a critical situation, where targeted blockades and strikes have been crippling our operation for over a year now, and where we have lost several of our customers. We are now faced with the necessity of winning back confidence and reshaping our operation to the current volume,” says Henrik Kristensen, CEO of APM Terminals Gothenburg.

The industrial actions over the past year at the container terminal in Gothenburg has hit APM Terminals Gothenburg hard. For several months, the operation has seen a drop in volumes and has run at a loss as a result of trade union blockades and strikes. APM Terminals Gothenburg has accepted every proposal that the mediators, selected by the Swedish National Mediation Institute, have made to solve the dispute.

“For our long-term survival, we see no other option than to make major changes to our operation, win back the confidence of customers and be a stable employer for the benefit of our workforce and our owners,” says Henrik Kristensen, CEO of APM Terminals Gothenburg.

The changes, in addition to the redundancies, will see the operation run on a two-shift basis without night-time service. The operation will be reshaped to ensure that direct calls will have the best possible conditions in Gothenburg.

APM Terminals Gothenburg is Scandinavia’s largest container terminal and a vital hub for Swedish commerce. Around 50 percent of all containers to and from Sweden are shipped through the terminal. In a world of severe price pressure and in which customers set very high standards for trustworthiness and flexibility, the company must be able to offer cost-effective services at times which suit the customers, and with a high level of reliability. But APM Terminals has not been able to live up to that fully over the past year, with 9 days lost to strikes and 14 blockades following one after the other.

In total, 450 people work at APM Terminals Gothenburg. The workforce was informed of the redundancies this morning.

“Our objective is that the negotiations will take place promptly and we hope to complete them within a couple of weeks, so that we can then inform the members of staff affected. This is a very distressing but unavoidable situation. We will try to make the process as sympathetic as possible,” says Sophia Tuveson, HR & Negotiations Manager at APM Terminals Gothenburg.

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