

MEDIA RELEASE



23 April 2004

Sydney Welcomes the Largest Container Vessel to the Harbour

Sydney Ports' Fire Tug Ted Noffs will be providing a spectacular water display for the arrival of the largest container vessel to visit Sydney on Sunday, 25 April 2004, the MSC Fabienne.

Mediterranean Shipping Company's 5,050 TEU* vessel will pass under the Sydney Harbour Bridge at approximately 3:45pm as it makes its way to Sydney Ports' Wharf 8 Darling Harbour Cruise Terminal to celebrate its maiden voyage to Sydney.

"The MSC Fabienne is approximately 294 metres in length and 32.2 metres wide, similar in dimension to the largest cruise vessel to visit Sydney, the Star Princess", said Phil Rosser, Senior Trade Manager, Sydney Ports Corporation.

"The capacity of this vessel is approximately double the size of the average vessel currently visiting Sydney, we already have a regular service of 4100 TEU vessels to Port Botany. It is expected that these larger vessels will become more common and with Sydney's deep channels our port is one of the few in Australia with the ability to handle these ships laden with cargo."

"The brand new vessel will be loading approximately 5,000 empty TEUs at Port Botany in a one off repositioning to Asia, prior to visiting Sydney Harbour. The export of these empty containers benefits Sydney's ports as it makes a significant contribution to the efficiency of the transport chain," said Mr Rosser.

"Sydney, as an import dominant port has a surplus of empty containers and with the high demand for empty containers in Asia (predominately to service exports out of China), it therefore makes sense that container lines reposition this equipment from ports of surplus to ports of demand," Mr Rosser said.

*TEU – Twenty foot equivalent Unit

When:

3:30pm, Sunday, 25 April 2004: estimated time MSC Fabienne will pass by Bradleys Head

3:45pm Sunday, 25 April 2004: estimated time MSC Fabienne will pass under the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

4:15pm, Sunday, 25 April 2004: estimated time MSC Fabienne will berth at Wharf 8 Darling Harbour.

11:59pm, Sunday, 25 April 2004: estimated time MSC Fabienne will depart Sydney for Asia.

Media inquiries:

Kamini Parashar 9296 4995/0408 441010

