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Editorial Review

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Merging interests

Container carriers are entering a period of consolidation yet again, driven as much by financial considerations as by operational reasons. After Nedlloyd Lines and P&O Containers agreed to combine who will be next?

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Tonnage jump fuels uncertainty

A detailed analysis of the world's containership fleet in service and newbuildings on order, by vessel type, size and beneficial owner.

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World container port traffic league

A statistical analysis of container traffic over ports worldwide, comparing their performance in 1995 with 1994, and ranking ports and countries by total TEU throughput.

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US intermodal's uncertain future

Poor service levels, insufficient track capacity and limited equipment supply, combined with the disruption caused by railroad mergers, are presently limiting the growth of intermodal services.

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European intermodal slowdown

The general slowdown of intermodal traffic volumes continues. Despite the introduction of many new services, intermodal operators are struggling to entice traffic away from roads, and hampered by the lack of a cohesive policy governing European railways.

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Lessors tough it out

With low box-building prices encouraging carriers to purchase outright, and carrier alliances pool their container inventory, lessors continue to suffer low lease rates and weak utilisation levels.

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Box building low

Despite almost record container output worldwide in 1996, overcapacity and speculative building, especially in China, have encouraged price-cutting to damage competition and win market share.

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