

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE ANNUAL ABTO BULK TERMINALS CONFERENCE

Don't miss our Bulk Terminals A Coruña 2026 conference this October.

We are looking forward to meeting you all at **Hotel Eurostars Atlántico** in A Coruña, Spain, for the annual ABTO Bulk Terminals conference this autumn. The theme of the event, 'Coping with continuing uncertainties' – chosen before the US and Israeli attack on Iran – seems almost an understatement.

BULK TERMINALS A CORUÑA 2026, taking place from 21-22 October, will set the scene with our traditional analysis of bulk markets, continuing with a full programme focused on the concerns of operators. As usual, we will offer sound practical solutions to terminal operators for improving operations and online security and ensuring environmental compliance and protection.

At the time of compiling this newsletter, Donald Trump has signed the memorandum of understanding to end America's war with Iran. Terms include a requirement on Iran to allow ships toll-free transit of the Strait of Hormuz for 60 days while the parties negotiate a final deal.

Whether or not the deal holds and Hormuz remains open, how short or long a time it takes for shipping to return to regular transiting is not the issue. The Old Normal is gone for ever and in the New Normal all actors will factor in that the Strait can be closed anytime Iran chooses. Increased insurance rates adding to the costs for charterers and shipowners, plus redundancy planning on the part of consumers and governments, will all have an impact on future strategic planning.

In addition to the obvious economic repercussions, how will bulk terminals cope with operational challenges and the need to make strategic adaptations?

BULK TERMINALS A CORUÑA 2026 will examine the impact these continuing challenges place on bulk terminal operations – both in the short and long term.

Appropriately, the conference on day one starts with the keynote 'Continuing geopolitical tensions and volatility of the US tariff regime impacting the global bulk trade', delivered by **Sean Fairley**, Principal Consultant, **Drewry Shipping Consultants**. Sean is also the Markets session Chairman.

It would be foolish at this stage to predict what tariffs the mercurial US President Trump will have decided to impose,

amend or withdraw and on whom – or how long the US-Iran deal will hold. However, what can be predicted with certainty is that the continuing uncertainties surrounding tariff regimes, geopolitical tensions and conflicts will continue to have an impact on bulk trade flows, both in terms of total volumes and trade routes.

What then will be the effect on markets of the continuing uncertainties of the New Normal in the Gulf, other geopolitical tensions and a fluid US tariff regime?

These are the questions Sean and the following sector presentations will seek to answer.

Pablo Rodas-Martini, Director of Market Intelligence, **Emerging & Frontier**, will examine **Iron ore – previous patterns and future predictions**. By then, it will be interesting to see who will be the winners and losers among the major iron ore exporters if there is a renewed closure of Hormuz.

Will Tooth, Senior Dry Bulk Analyst, **SSY**, will discuss **Coal – remains a key dry bulk commodity** at the conference.

For the grain trade, **Harry Grimes**, Head of Dry Bulk Research & Data Analytics, **Arrow**, will present **Grain markets – conflicts and structural changes** at A Coruña.

Regarding the cementitious materials trade, with trade flows increasingly influenced by structural trends this sector is assuming a growing importance. **Sylvie Doutres Ghizzo**, Associate and Joint Managing Director, **DsG Consultants**, will discuss **Cementitious trade – factors reshaping trade flows**.

The rest of day one consists of the Operations and Opportunities session. Our Chairman, **Professor Mike Bradley**, Director of the **Wolfson Centre for Bulk Solids Handling Technology**, opens the session with **Minimising ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship material losses**.

Francisco Martínez, Product Manager, **igus SLU**, will then discuss **Lubrication-free polymers in bulk terminal applications**.

For further information about ABTO

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Irene Souto, Head of Port and Business Development at our host the [Port of A Coruña Authority](#), will introduce a discussion: **A Coruña: A port of destination and a logistics distribution platform**. Irene will be joined by [Roque Gonzalez Nogueira](#), Director Supply Chain and Terminals, [Galigrain SAU](#), [Jorge Rico Caramés](#), Commercial Director, [Pérez Torres Marítima](#) and [Pablo Ramilo Méndez](#), Director, [Terminales Marítimos de Galicia](#).

Our industry is often said to be slow to adopt new technology. [Javier Sánchez](#), Innovation Department, [Galigrain SAU](#), will report on **The SMARTSTORE project – improving port logistics, storage and transformation of relevant products in Galicia through Industry 4.0 technologies**.

[Kent Busk](#), Director, [Seaport Group](#), and [Mo Dualeh](#), EMEA Sales Manager, [TBA Group](#), will then present a case study: **Implementing a terminal operations system**. Each general cargo and bulk terminal has its own operational profile, meaning there is no true one-size-fits-all terminal operating system (TOS).

However, there are several core capabilities that any robust TOS should deliver and there are must-have customisations. The challenge is to include these in the specs and contract. This is where a structured procurement approach becomes critical.

How to develop an opportunity? Moving from concept to commissioning presented by [Hani Katerji](#), Director, [Hani Katerji Consulting](#), will illustrate the steps to take.

After a day packed full of discussion and information, it will be time for the Conference Reception, kindly sponsored by the Port of A Coruña Authority.

DAY TWO

[Richard Hodder](#), Managing Director and Principal Cyber-security Consultant, [Engage Cyber](#), opens day two with a topic focusing the minds of many port operators: **Update on the threat – how artificial intelligence is reshaping the cyber-risk landscape for bulk terminals**, together with measures terminals must take to strengthen their cyber defences and protect operations from attack.

[Dorota Jilli](#), Senior Underwriter, [TT Club](#), opens the Environment and Safety session with **Understanding climate risks, planning adaptive responses and embedding resilience**.

Dust suppression in dry bulk terminals is critical for environmental compliance, worker safety, equipment protection, and community relations. Designing an effective dust suppression system starts with analysing the characteristics of the dust being processed. In a panel with [Frank van Laarhoven](#) from [RAM Spreaders](#) and [David Ingvarsson](#) from [BRUKS Siwertell](#), Professor Mike Bradley examines the various methods.

[Neil Dalus](#), Risk Assessment Manager, [TT Club](#), then moderates a panel on **Fire suppression**, with [Robert Tengvall](#) from [Fogmaker](#) and a panellist from [Dafo Vehicle](#).

The Port Authority of A Coruña prides itself on its green credentials. [Andrés Guerra](#), the Head of Sustainability and

Strategy, introduces a panel discussion: **A Coruña Green Port** with [Roque Gonzalez](#), [Jorge Rico Caramés](#) and a panellist from [Terminales Marítimos de Galicia](#), which concludes the formal part of the conference. After lunch we leave for the Outer Port of A Coruña and terminal visits.

Opportunities for interaction

As always, the event promises to be interesting and informative. The annual ABTO Bulk Terminals conferences are designed for all those involved in the transportation, storage and handling of bulk commodities. As well as terminals and ports we welcome equipment and service suppliers, professional advisors and academics to the conference.

Indeed, ABTO feels strongly it is only through the interaction with these others that bulk terminals will achieve increased the operational efficiencies, better security, safety and environmental compliance they need to achieve.

There will be plenty of opportunities for that interaction. Ample time is provided to network during the course of the conference. Additionally, there is the relaxed and convivial atmosphere of ice breaker drinks in the bar of the Hotel Eurostars Atlántico for arrivals on the evening before the event starts and then the Conference Reception at the end of day one. Both of these provide the perfect opportunity renew old friendships and make new ones. A further valuable networking opportunity is afforded by our traditional terminal visit on the afternoon of the second day. This year we will be visiting three adjacent terminals in the Outer Port of A Coruña: [Galigrain SAU](#) ([GrupoNogar](#)), [Pérez Torres Marítima](#) and [Terminales Marítimos de Galicia](#).

ABTO could not stage the annual Bulk Terminals conference without the support of our sponsors: [igus](#), [indurad](#), [RAM Spreaders](#), the [TT Club](#) and [BRUKS Siwertell](#). A big thank you to them, our host port of A Coruña and conference partners [DsG Consultants](#) and [The Wolfson Centre](#).

The Wolfson Centre for Bulk Solids Handling Technology, in particular its Director and our conference Chairman Professor Mike Bradley, will be well known to many of you. You can read more about the work of the centre – and Mike himself – in our in-depth interview with Mike in the current edition of *Bulk Terminals International*.

How to register

To register and for details of the Hotel Eurostars Atlántico conference hotel please complete the form on our [website](#).

If you have any questions, please drop me a line at events@bulkterminals.org or call +33 (0)321 47 72 19.

Together with our conference Chairman, Professor Mike Bradley, and ABTO's Technical Director [Ian Adams](#), I look forward to welcoming you to **Bulk Terminals A Coruña** in October.

Simon Gutteridge, Chief Executive, ABTO

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Professor Mike Bradley, Director, The Wolfson Centre for Bulk Solids Handling Technology, has been talking to us about the Centre's mission to spread its knowledge so port owners can run their operations more efficiently, more safely – and ultimately more profitably. Here's a snapshot of a typical day in Mike's world...

This job has no typical day and that's what I still love about it. My favourite sort of day is to be out on a port or plant visit because I still get excited about getting out among operating machinery! Often on such a visit I'll be looking at how the material is flowing, wear of the equipment, throughput and stoppages, how it's being used by the operators, dust emissions and other hazards, and condition of the material being handled in order to get an idea of what is causing the problem or ought to be improved.

On another day I might be in the lab or pilot plant, testing some material samples to measure their handling properties or running trials with them through test equipment. Our philosophy at The Wolfson Centre starts with "knowing your enemy" – material characterisation. If you don't have quantitative values for the key handling parameters of a material (density, flow properties, dustiness, explosion hazards etc), then you can't make any meaningful calculations of plant performance or equipment design, so getting to know the material being handled is always the first stage of any study.

Using those measured properties to undertake analysis or plant design is then another day's work.

Then again, I might be supervising a research project that is trying to address better ways of doing solids handling, or improving the models we use – we have over the years produced a lot of leading edge knowledge and new analytical and characterisation tools to enable better equipment design.



Of course, I don't do this alone – I have a great team around me who do all this stuff. Each has their particular specialism, but all have a wide base of knowledge and experience in the industry. But that doesn't happen by accident – much of my time has always been taken up with passing this knowledge on to younger people and giving them the chance to do their own research, learn from their own experiences and getting used to sharing their knowledge in the team and beyond.

As well as mentoring new generations of up-and-coming engineers in the Wolfson team, we get about 250 delegates from industry come to us every year on the short courses we run. Helping companies in the field to improve their knowledge management is another part of my work, to mitigate the loss of knowledge and experience when people retire.

The trouble with bulk solids handling is that almost nobody teaches it on training courses, whether at college or university, so people who come into the industries that handle bulk solids have to learn from experience and that can be a long and painful process. So our mission at The Wolfson Centre has always included trying to reach out to people to spread the knowledge so they can run their operations more efficiently, more safely and ultimately more profitably.

Doing outreach, plant and company visits and so on has taken me all over the World. Seeing and working with people in all these different places and cultures has been a fantastic experience, but after 40 years of doing so I must say I do get a bit travel-weary sometimes!

You can read the full interview with Mike in the current edition of *Bulk Terminals International*





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CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Some of our Consultancy services include advising on:

- » Storage and Discharge of bulk materials
- » Pneumatic Conveying of bulk solids
- » Spoiling of materials in storage and in transit
- » Plant and Equipment design/redesign
- » Ship Unloading/ quayside operations
- » Control of plant wear
- » Dust control
- » Bulk Materials characterisation
- » ATEX/DSEAR compliance
- » Expert Witness services

SHORT COURSES FOR INDUSTRY

We also provide a range of short courses to help delegates identify potential bulk materials handling problems and advise on how to avoid and/or overcome these issues. They fall under 4 main categories

Pneumatic Conveying:

- » Pneumatic Conveying of Bulk Materials
- » Pneumatic Conveying System Design
- » Rotary Valves; Design, Selection and Operational Issues
- » Commissioning and Troubleshooting 'Hand's On' Pneumatic Conveying Systems

Storage of Bulk Materials:

- » Storage and Discharge of Powders and Bulk Solids
- » Design of Equipment for Storing and Handling Bulk Materials
- » Biomass Handling, Feeding and Storage (can be adapted to other materials such as waste, recycled goods, pellets)

General bulk materials handling:

- » Overview of Particulate Handling Technology
- » Port and Terminal Operations for Bulk Cargoes
- » Measurement of the Properties and Bulk Behaviour of Particulate Materials
- » Dust Control in Processes

Specialist areas of concern:

- » Caking and Lump Formation in Powders and Bulk Solids
- » Undesired De-blending and Separation in Processes and Equipment
- » Electrostatics in Powder Handling
- » Numerical Modelling of Solids Handling and Processing
- » Powder Handling and Flow for Additive Manufacturing



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COMMODITIES SPECIAL

TRUMP'S \$700M BOOST FOR US COAL INDUSTRY

Global commodities are often hitting the current headlines. While other countries are winding down the use of coal and are looking to more sustainable solutions, US President Donald Trump has announced a package of federal support worth almost US\$700m aimed at reviving the country's coal industry, with funding earmarked for power plant upgrades, new coal projects and a long-disputed export terminal on the US West Coast.

The funding will be provided through the Defense Production Act, a Cold War-era law that allows the federal government to support industries deemed important to national security. The Trump administration has argued that reliable domestic energy supplies will be needed to support growing electricity demand, particularly from artificial intelligence data centres and other energy-intensive industries.

According to administration officials, approximately US\$425m will be used to modernise 13 coal-fired power stations across the US. Additional funding will support the development of new coal-related projects in states including Alaska and West Virginia, while \$75m has been allocated to the proposed West Gateway export terminal in Oakland, California.

Planned for the former Oakland Army Base site in West Oakland, the facility has been the subject of legal and political disputes for more than a decade. Developers have long argued that the terminal would provide a much-needed export outlet for coal produced in western states, while opponents have raised concerns about dust emissions, air quality and climate impacts.

The latest federal funding announcement provides fresh momentum for the development. The administration says the project could begin construction this year and eventually handle more than 12 million tonnes of coal exports annually, creating a direct shipping link between US producers and customers in Asia. Countries identified as potential destinations include Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Supporters of the initiative argue that export infrastructure is an important part of maintaining the competitiveness of the US coal sector. While domestic coal consumption has declined significantly over the past two decades, international demand remains substantial in parts of Asia where coal continues to play a major role in electricity generation and industrial production.

If the West Oakland project proceeds as planned, it would create one of the few dedicated coal export gateways on the US West Coast and provide a new route for producers seeking access to Pacific markets. After years of uncertainty, the terminal now appears closer to development than at any point since the project was first proposed.

ANALYSIS: GLOBAL COAL DEMAND

Global coal demand in 2025 grew moderately, remaining near 2024 levels, according to International Energy Association (IEA) research

Global coal demand in 2025 grew modestly above 2024 levels, rising by only 0.4%, an increase of around 30 million tonnes (or 0.7 EJ). This growth, which was in line with IEA estimates, was significantly below the 1.4% increase seen in 2024 and marked the end of the post-Covid rebound, with global coal demand growth slowing each year since 2021.

Coal use in power generation diverged from recent trends in several regions around the world. In the United States, strong coal use in the power sector supported a 10% rise in demand, reversing the trend of declines in recent years. Meanwhile, in China – by far the world's biggest coal consumer – electricity generation from coal fell for the first time since 2015. In India, coal-fired electricity generation also declined, mostly due to the impact of an early and strong monsoon. And in the European Union, the long-term decrease in coal use slowed, mostly due to low hydropower and wind output. Together, these trends balanced each other out, resulting in only modest global demand growth over the year.

Coal power generation accounts for two-thirds of coal consumption globally, and therefore is the main driver of

coal demand trends. In 2025, coal power generation was basically flat, remaining close to 2024 levels. In the industrial sector, coal demand continued its decline in advanced economies as well as in heavy industry in China, where cement and steel production peaked in 2014 and 2020 respectively. However, this was offset by demand growth in other sectors, with coal increasingly used to produce chemicals in China, steel in India and nickel in Indonesia.

China consumes 30% more coal than the rest of the world put together. As a result, it remains the main driver of global demand trends. Overall, coal demand in China in 2025 stayed very close to 2024 levels, recording a slight increase of 0.1%.

While China saw continued strong electricity demand growth in 2025, this was met by a combination of fast growth in solar PV and wind generation, increased hydropower output and growth in nuclear power. As a result, coal electricity generation in China declined by around 1.5% in 2025, falling for only the second time since the 1970s. Coal use in energy-intensive industry in China also declined as steel and cement output shrank

by 4% and 7%, respectively. However, these declines were largely offset by an increase in demand for coal for the production of plastics and the chemical sector.

In parallel, the commissioning of coal power plants in China accelerated significantly in 2025, reaching almost 80 gigawatts (GW). This was the result of an elevated number of approvals between 2022 and 2024 following power shortages in 2021. The construction of new plants is primarily intended to meet peak electricity demand and support China's energy security goals.

In India, an early and intense monsoon had a significant impact on coal power generation, and hence on wider coal demand, with electricity accounting for almost three-quarters of the country's coal use. The change in the monsoon resulted in weaker electricity demand growth, mainly because of reduced air conditioning and agricultural pump use. In addition, record high rainfall significantly boosted hydropower output, while growth in wind and solar PV continued. As a result, coal-fired power generation in India declined by around 3%, marking only the third decline in five decades. Other sectors partially offset the decline in the power sector. The output of steel – the second-largest coal-consuming sector – grew by more than 10% in 2025. These effects combined to result in an overall decline in coal demand of 1%.

In the United States, where coal use had declined by 16% in 2023 and 5% in 2024, demand grew by 10% in 2025, driven by higher use in the electricity sector, which accounts for almost 90% of US coal consumption. Strong electricity demand and higher gas prices, together with US government support for slowing coal plant retirements, were the major drivers behind this reversal.

In the European Union, coal demand fell by 5% in 2025, a much slower rate than in 2023 and 2024, when consumption declined by 23% and 11%, respectively. Low hydropower and wind output, particularly in the first half of the year, boosted coal-fired power generation. Coal use in the European Union halved over the previous decade, due to factors such as coal plant closures, the growth of renewables and high carbon prices.

Find out more about [IEA's Global Energy Review](#)

ON THE MOVE

The latest industry appointments and promotions

The Port of Tyne has appointed **Elaine Scott** as its new **Director of Innovation**. Following her promotion from Innovation Partnerships Manager, Elaine will lead the Port's sustainable innovation agenda and run the National Maritime Innovation Hub.

She will oversee a range of programmes including Venture Connect, alongside international collaboration initiatives such as the Ports Innovation Partnership. Scott brings more than 25 years of experience across economic development and regeneration, with a strong focus on technology-enabled innovation and sustainability-led initiatives.

Before joining the Port of Tyne, she was Director at Space North East England based at NETPark, the region's first science park.

The UK's largest port operator, **Associated British Ports (ABP)**, has appointed **Rupert Joseland** as its new **Group Head of Property**. He will lead the property team of one of the UK's biggest commercial landowners, with a portfolio of over 8,600 acres across a range of strategic locations providing unrivalled development options and multimodal logistics links.

Joseland has more than 30 years of experience in delivering large-scale industrial and logistics development, including as Managing Director at St Modwen Properties. He has established high-performing regional teams, delivering major schemes such as Swansea University Bay Campus and creating a more than 10 million square foot logistics portfolio.

"The sector-leading scope of the ABP property portfolio and the range of development opportunities is clear. What has particularly struck me from my initial conversations with ABP is their ambitious vision for developing and growing their estate. I'm excited to be joining ABP to lead the team in realising this ambition," says Joseland.

Middle Eastern port operator **Red Sea Gateway Terminal (RSGT)** has appointed **Lars Vang Christensen** as **Group Chief Executive Officer**. He succeeds Jens O Floe, who has served as Group CEO since 2016 and will become a non-executive director, representing RSGT shareholders in various board roles.

Vang Christensen brings more than 30 years of global leadership experience across the maritime, port and logistics sectors, having held multiple CEO and senior executive roles within major international terminal and shipping companies. Most recently, he served as Regional Head of Joint Ventures and Strategic Partnerships at APM Terminals, where he oversaw strategic engagement across a diversified global portfolio.

In his new role, he will lead RSGT into its next phase of growth, accelerating strategic expansion, strengthening international partnerships and advance the company's continued commitment to operational excellence and innovation.

"It is an honour to join RSGT at such an important stage in its journey," he says. "We will build on the strong foundation established by Jens, further enhance customer value and continue expanding RSGT's reach as a leading player in global trade and a key contributor to strengthening Saudi Arabia's position as a competitive logistics hub."

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