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PRESS RELEASE

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## Mersin International Port (MIP) launched the 1 Billion TL Gate Project

*Mersin International Port Management Inc. The Gate Project, which was realized to solve the traffic problem, was significantly completed and realized in a short period of one year. This pioneering project not only solves traffic problems, but also increases the efficiency of port operations by effectively separating port traffic from the city's highways.*

Mersin, TÜRKİYE- The Gate Project, which Mersin International Port Management Inc. (MIP) brought to Mersin with an investment of approximately 1 billion TL, was launched with a ceremony attended by Mersin Governor Ali Hamza Pehlivan, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Vahap Seçer, city protocol and company executives. This project, which is eagerly awaited to be realized, constitutes an important milestone in the transportation infrastructure of the region.

This project will facilitate the direct entry and exit of trucks and heavy vehicles, which have a significant impact on city traffic, to Mersin Port. In this way, city traffic will be relieved and the waiting time of trucks at the port for loading and unloading will be significantly shortened.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Gate Project, which was realized in cooperation with MIP, Mersin Governorship, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, the Republic of Turkey State Railways and the General Directorate of Highways, **Ajay Kumar Singh, General Manager of Mersin International Port Management Inc.** said: "As a company that knows Mersin closely and is proud to be from Mersin, one of our most important duties is to find solutions to the problems of our city. With this in mind, we launched a very important initiative last year. With the Gate Project, we will solve the freight traffic problem at the entrance of Mersin and ensure that trucks arriving at the port can enter and exit the port directly without interfering with city traffic. By solving the freight traffic problem at the entrance of Mersin, we aim to increase the trade volume of our city and benefit the development of our region. We have joined forces with the Governorship of Mersin, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, Turkish State Railways and the

General Directorate of Highways to solve the traffic problem that closely affects the people of Mersin. This is how the Gate Project, which brings us together with you today, was born.

Our main goal in this project was to separate the port traffic from the city traffic. We promised to regulate the traffic caused by heavy vehicles such as trucks and trucks, especially around the port."

In his speech, General Manager Singh gave the following information about the project: "Thanks to our investment, vehicles carrying containers and conventional cargo can directly enter and exit our port from two connection points with the D 400 Highway. At the same time, with a new connection from 132nd Street, we are providing 3 lanes of access to our port. Thanks to the railroad overpass built within the scope of the project, trucks will be able to pass under the crossing and move comfortably in traffic. I wish that this investment, which we made with the awareness of our responsibilities towards our city, region and country, will be beneficial for everyone."

Mr. Dirk Jan Storm, Regional CFO of PSA Europe-Mediterranean-America and Member of MIP Board of Directors, said at the opening: "The Gates Project combines our business, sustainability and social goals, making it a significant achievement for all stakeholders. It seamlessly integrates MIP and our commitment to supporting the local economy, while promoting a healthier environment for the people of Mersin."

**Ali Hamza Pehlivan, Governor of Mersin**, said the following in his speech at the ceremony "Our precious Mersin is a province identified with its port, and as the port develops, so does Mersin. Mersin Port, especially with the systematic steps taken in the 50s and 60s, is now one of the largest ports in the world. While our port is considered the largest port in Turkey in terms of container capacity, it is also in the top percentile in the world rankings and the port density is increasing day by day. Of course, this density has positive repercussions on the economy. However, it also creates new needs for the development of the city's infrastructure. The project to be realized today is a project initiated to eliminate the traffic density at the entrance of our city, especially at the eastern side. MIP company is realizing this project. However, this is not only a project of the company operating the port, but also a project of our city, a project of our country. Because the steps we will take here will contribute not only to the economy of our city, but also to the economy of our region and our country."

Speaking about the importance of Mersin Port, Governor Pehlivan continued his words as follows. "When we look at the international trade dimension by our Ministry, we can see that the expansion of this port

If we proceed from the logic that this is a port city, it is accepted by everyone that the increase in business here will trigger the other port. When we look at it numerically, if we express the contribution of the port to our city from the export and import dimension, our exports, which were around 4.2 billion dollars last year, have increased to 6.2 billion dollars as of last year and our general trade volume has increased to 35 billion dollars. Here, of course, the contribution of this port is very big and important. Last year, our countrywide exports increased by 13 percent and reached around 254 billion dollars. Therefore, as Turkey grows, Mersin grows, and as Mersin develops and grows in its own field and sectors, this is reflected in the national economy."

**Mersin Metropolitan Mayor Vahap Seçer** said the following in his speech

"One of the most important reasons for the growth and development of Mersin's current center and its becoming a big city is that we live on very ancient lands from Anamur to Tarsus. Today, MIP, one of the most important ports in Turkey, is one of the most important reasons why Mersin is a city of trade, and the subsidiary sectors that arise from the port-induced trade have caused Mersin's population to increase rapidly, first with internal migration, and then as a result of important developments in neighboring geographies in our region. From the day we took office until today, we have maintained and will continue to maintain our relations with all our institutions, including MIP, within the framework of this understanding. Let Mersin become a bigger trade city, let Mersin port grow. We would like Mersin to be a city recognized by the world, not only in Turkey, but also in the Arabian Peninsula, the Middle East, the Caucasus, and all over the world, a city from which exports can be made and trade can be carried out, and an important destination, especially with the opening of the international airport.

The increase in vehicle traffic over time has unfortunately led to Mersin's port-related traffic, which in turn has led to the emergence of such images. The project, which we will inaugurate today, has been finalized with the support and efforts of many institutions such as the Metropolitan Municipality, TCDD and the General Directorate of Highways, as well as the support and efforts of the sub-institutions affiliated to these institutions, with the important contributions of the governor Ali İhsan Su, who served in the previous period before the arrival of Mr. Ali Hamza Pehlivan, and with the important contributions of the MIP management.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of our esteemed governors, members of the board of directors of MIP, directors and presidents of all institutions, technical staff of MIP, technical staff of the institutions, and all the laborers working on these constructions with their physical strength and arm strength."



## MERSİN INTERNATIONAL PORT MANAGEMENT INC.

### **About Mersin International Port Management Inc.**

Mersin International Port Management Inc. (MIP=, which was established in partnership with Akfen Holding and PSA International, took over the Turkish State Railways Mersin Port Management on May 11, 2007 for 36 years. Mersin International Port (MIP), of which the Australian Fund Company IFM joined in 2017, is connected to industrialized cities of Turkey such as Ankara, Gaziantep, Kayseri, Kahramanmaraş, Konya and neighboring countries such as Syria, Iraq and Commonwealth of Independent States by rail and road.

It is one of the main container ports in the Mediterranean Region with its transshipment and hinterland connections with the Middle East and the Black Sea. Mersin International Port (MIP) constitutes an important part of Turkey's import and export volume with its wide hinterland, accessible transportation opportunities and successful personnel. MIP is Turkey's largest port with the annual total amount of cargo handled and its current area.

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