



## OT AFRICA LINE PRESS RELEASE

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**07th March 2006**

### **OTAL Celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Trading Year in the West Africa Trade**

West African shipping specialist and multi-modal transport operator, OT Africa Line (OTAL) is proud to be celebrating its 30th trading year this year. Given OTAL's scale of development and the complexity of the West African trade, this is a significant milestone.

The company launched its pioneering service with the introduction of the first multi-purpose ro-ro vessels to the region in 1975 starting exclusively with calls to Nigeria. Since the sailing in that year of its first vessel, the *Pool Antelope* – a small 17trailer/200 lane meter ro-ro, the company has changed enormously.

The OTAL of today has access to a fleet of nineteen ships - six of the largest multipurpose ro-ro's on the trade together with thirteen container ships. These offer container capacities of 1000-1300 TEUs each, ro-ro capacities of 4500-5000 lane meters and space for all manner of containers, reefers, cars, general cargo, groupage and awkward out-of-gauge cargoes.

According to OTAL's marketing manager, Rachel Bennett:

“One of OTAL's hallmarks is our versatility in being able to ship and transport the multiplicity of cargo types associated with trade to and from West Africa.

“OTAL is well versed in the safe and secure consolidation and shipment of complex and often fragile consignments – from foodstuff to chemicals, pipes to porcelain – as well as the specialist handling of traditional West African exports including cocoa, coffee, rubber, pineapples and timber – all of which are sensitive to extreme changes in temperature and humidity and need expert care in their transportation”

Having started as a one port operator to Lagos, OTAL now serves every major port between Morocco and Angola. In addition the line has developed transport services providing worldwide connections within destinations throughout the region, including commercial centers in the landlocked countries of Burkina Faso, Central African Republic [CAR], Chad, Mali and Niger.

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Using a wide range of connecting cargo agreements, OTAL effectively links West Africa with Europe, the Baltic, North America, Far and Middle East and the Indian Sub-continent.

Miss Bennett goes on to add:

“We have always focused exclusively on serving West Africa and as a result we are now one of the strongest players on the trade. OTAL has a great deal of experience and understands the diversities and complexities of the market as well as the regulatory, political and operational systems that work within this complex continent.

“Over the years our transport operations have grown from strength to strength, our forte for transporting to the sub-region has developed beyond shipping. We are an adept logistics provider offering a multitude of services from on-carriage and contract haulage to one-stop forwarding operations utilising multi-modal means of transport, delivering to almost any destination in the world and all over West Africa.”

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**Notes to editors:**

OTAL is one of the largest and longest established operators serving the trades to, from and within West Africa (Morocco-Angola). Established in 1975, the company operates a fleet of multipurpose ro-ro and container vessels.

OTAL operates a range of transport services complementing its regular liner operations. These include West African terminal operations and liner agency services, customs clearance, cargo consolidation, shipping, storage and warehousing, project logistics and trucking. The company delivers cargo throughout West Africa including the inland destinations such as Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali and Niger.

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