

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HÖEGH AURORA, THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST ECO-FRIENDLY CAR CARRIER, MADE ITS INAUGURAL CALL TO PORT FREEPORT

FREEPORT, TX (March 6, 2025)—On Tuesday, March 4, Port Freeport welcomed the Höegh Aurora during its inaugural visit. The Höegh Aurora is the world's largest and most environmentally friendly car carrier. This event highlights Port Freeport's strategic growth and with partners that have a shared commitment to sustainability, as well as its ongoing investments in infrastructure to support next-generation vessels.

The Höegh Aurora is a state-of-the-art roll-on/roll-off (RORO) vessel with advanced sustainability features, including a fuel-efficient hull and emissions-reducing technology. This design supports the global shift toward greener shipping solutions. The Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project facilitated the vessel's arrival, which deepened and widened the channel to enhance navigational safety and accommodate larger vessels.

“Port Freeport’s partnership with Höegh Autoliners continues to grow, bringing economic benefits and strengthening our role as a leading gateway for automotive trade,” said Ravi Singhania, Chairman of the Port Freeport Commission. “The arrival of Höegh Aurora reflects our shared commitment to innovation and sustainability, ensuring that Port Freeport remains at the forefront of global shipping advancements.”

Port Freeport and Höegh Autoliners established their RORO partnership in 2015, and since then, Höegh has played a crucial role in supporting the region’s automotive supply chain. The arrival of Höegh Aurora further strengthens this collaboration, expanding trade opportunities and reinforcing Port Freeport’s position as a key hub for global commerce.

Port Freeport’s ongoing investment in infrastructure, including the Freeport Harbor Channel

Improvement Project, has positioned the port as a premier destination for large-scale vessels.

“With the deepening and widening of the Freeport Harbor Channel, we are enhancing operational efficiency and reinforcing our commitment to sustainable growth and economic prosperity,” said Phyllis Saathoff, Port Freeport Executive Director & CEO. “The arrival of Höegh Aurora is a testament to the forward-thinking investments we have made to support our partners and accommodate the next generation of eco-friendly vessels.”

As global trade continues to evolve, Port Freeport remains dedicated to fostering strong industry partnerships, expanding its capabilities, and embracing sustainability-driven innovations. The port looks forward to continued collaboration with Höegh Autoliners and other industry leaders to support the future of maritime commerce.

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranks nationally as 6th in chemicals, 14th in total foreign waterborne tonnage, and 26th in containers. A 2022 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 266,300 jobs and has a total economic output of \$157.3 billion. Port Freeport serves Alliera, Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products Partners, ExxonMobil, Freeport LNG, Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc., Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Linde, MEGlobal, NYK RORO, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallaum Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy, Volkswagen Group of America, and Vulcan Materials Company.

Port Freeport is committed to keeping the local community informed of our operation and results. If you have questions or comments about this article, please email or call Amanda Veliz, Public Affairs Manager.

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PHOTO CUTLINE 1: Höegh Aurora docked at Port Freeport's Berths 1 and 2



PHOTO CUTLINE 2: From left to right: Emily Henderson, Amanda Veliz, Jesse Hibbetts, and Commissioner Kim Kincannon from Port Freeport; Manuel Salerno Abad, Consulate of Panama; Captain Victor C. Escamilla, Master of the Höegh Aurora; Ambassador Juan B. Sosa, President of the U.S.-Panama Business Council; Jordan Mansker and David Caramante of Höegh Autoliners.