

GIANT SHIP-TO-SHORE CRANES HERE IN LONG BEACH HARBOR

LONG BEACH, Calif., April 8, 2002 – The largest cranes at any U.S. port arrived at the Port of Long Beach Tuesday morning, April 9.

The two 350-foot-high ship-to-shore cranes passed through the Queens Gate opening of the Long Beach Breakwater at 8 a.m. aboard the ship *Zhenhua 6*. The bright, red-orange cranes arrived fully erected, with their booms raised.

The “booms” are the part of the cranes that are lowered over a ship when cargo containers are unloaded and loaded. The new cranes will be able to reach across the next generation ship with 22 containers, while the largest existing crane in Long Beach can reach across 18 of the eight-foot-wide boxes.

The cranes are the first two of 12 cranes that the Port of Long Beach has ordered for a new 375-acre container terminal under construction on Terminal Island. The new Pier T terminal leased to Hanjin Shipping Co. of South Korea will be the port’s largest, and is part of a major expansion planned to accommodate the projected growth in international trade. The first 290 acres of the Pier T container terminal is on schedule to open in July. The remaining 85 acres will open during mid-2003.

The *Zhenhua 6* will sit at anchor for a week inside the breakwater, south of the oil islands, while metal sea bracing is removed. On Monday, April 15, the ship is to move into the West Basin alongside the new, mile-long wharf at Pier T. One of the cranes is scheduled be unloaded on Tuesday, April 16, and the other a day later, on April 17.

The cranes are being built by Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery Co. of China, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of ship-to-shore cranes. The cranes cost about \$7 million each. The latest schedule calls for the second shipment with four cranes, aboard the *Zhenhua 3*, to arrive in early May. A third shipment with four cranes is set to arrive in early June, and a fourth shipment with two cranes is to arrive in early August.

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