News release

M&G-backed ITG launches fully electric container barge, powering greener logistics across Europe

Millions of Heineken beers to travel Europe's waterways using innovative clean energy technologies

London, 24 October 2025 – A collaboration between parties led by Inland Terminal Group (ITG) - a portfolio company of M&G's infrastructure team - has launched a fully-electric barge, the ***MS Den Bosch Max Green***. It marks a transformative step in decarbonising Europe's distribution networks and highlights how global brands such as Heineken can support the logistics industry to create cleaner, more resilient supply chains.

Already a leader in low carbon logistics, ITG has partnered with numerous global brands such as Heineken, Nike, Ikea, Toyota to help decarbonise their supply chains by shifting their container transport from road to water. Conventional barge transport already delivers 50-70% of CO_2 savings versus road transport, with the new electric barge expected to take that to almost 100%.

The electric barge operates by using swappable battery containers, developed in collaboration with Zero Emission Services (ZES), backed by strategic support from the Dutch National Growth Fund and the Province of South Holland. With each load capable of removing the equivalent of up to 132 trucks from the road, ITG's electric barge operations expected to prevent up to circa 800 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere annually compared to conventional sailing.

As the largest operator of terminals in the BeNeLux region, ITG handles approximately 1 million containers (TEUs) each year via barges across its network of 17 terminals. ITG's Den Bosch terminal, next to Heineken's brewery, handled several thousand containers in 2024, many of which are expected to now travel emission-free along Dutch waterways.

The new electric barge follows closely after ITG's launch of the world's first hydrogen fuel cell barge in collaboration with Nike and Future Proof Shipping. Nike's long-term partnership with ITG ensures that millions of its trainers are shipped to Nike's principal European logistics hub at the Meerhout terminal in Belgium, which has been integrated into ITG's barge corridor.

Andy Matthews, CIO of M&G's infrastructure investment team, Infracapital, said: "We are proud to help build essential and sustainable infrastructure across Europe – a powerful catalyst for driving decarbonisation. Through ITG's electric barge network, we are supporting the transition to net zero in European logistics, while also look to deliver resilient, long-term value for our investors. Projects like this are where institutional capital can make the greatest impact—combining innovation, sustainability, and operational excellence."

Eduard Backer, Chief Executive of ITG, added: "Working with ZES, our customers, Nedcargo, and with the long-term support of M&G, we are achieving our sustainability ambitions – and those of our customers. M&G's continued vision and commitment to sustainable infrastructure have provided ITG with the financial strength, operational expertise and innovative capacity needed to make this pioneering project a reality. This initiative is part of our broader strategy to keep the Netherlands both clean and accessible – and that momentum must continue."

M&G's Investment in ITG sits alongside Zenobe – a UK-based leader in battery storage and electric vehicle electrification, which also operates in Europe. Zenobe is accelerating the electrification of vehicle fleets and battery utilisation for renewable power generation, supporting the development of 1,000 electric buses and vehicles and saving approximately 770,000 tonnes of CO_2 over 15 years.

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Notes to editors:

- Having launched a revolutionary hydrogen-powered barge launched two years ago, ITG's interchangeable use of both battery and hydrogen-powered vessels ensures optimum operational efficiency for long and short journeys, accelerating the reduction of Scope 3 emissions and proactively addressing upcoming CO_2 levies.
- **Nike** relies on ITG's extensive terminal network, with its Meerhout distribution centre seamlessly integrated into the barge corridor. Nike's partnership with ITG includes co-funding hydrogen-electric and battery-electric barges, accelerating the shift from road to water and supporting Nike's zero-emission ambitions.

About M&G

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About ITG

Inland Terminals Group brings together the terminals of BCTN, MCS and CTT. With 17 terminals, ITG connects large parts of the Netherlands and Flanders with the seaports of Rotterdam and Antwerp. Together, the terminals handle over one million TEU annually. ITG specialises in the transhipment and transport of containers arriving at or departing from the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam. Transport between inland terminals and seaports is carried out by inland vessels. Sustainability is high on the agenda, with the goal of reaching net zero by 2040.

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