

One step away from top 15 container carriers

IRISL ascends three ranks in months, marking major operational, fleet gains

Economy Desk

In the latest Alphaliner ranking report, the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) has ascended three positions compared to its previous ranking, securing the 16th place among the world's major container shipping lines.

This advancement, achieved within less than a few months, signifies a marked improvement in operational capability and fleet capacity expansion, IRNA reported.

The primary reasons for this company's rise include an increase in TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) capacity and fleet optimization, the development of regional and international logistics corridors – particularly via Chabahar (in southeast of Iran) – and the implementation of an in-house

ship repair and refurbishment program. These improvements occurred despite sanctions constraints and led to enhanced operational productivity.

Should this trend persist, the possibility of joining the top 15 companies also exists.

In the new ranking, the company MSC holds the top position, while Maersk, CMA CGM, COSCO, and Hapag-Lloyd occupy the second to fifth places, respectively.

Separately, the CEO of Iran Marine Industrial Company announced on Wednesday that the initiation of procedures for signing a memorandum of understanding to construct the country's first offshore drilling rig, alongside the delivery of two export vessels to Venezuela, ISNA reported.

Manouchehr Alipour stated

during a press conference that two vessels ordered by Venezuela had been delivered, with two more currently under construction.

He said that four tankers for the National Iranian Tanker Company and one vessel for the Ports and Maritime Organization in the north of the country are also under construction. This activity has kept the production line for 3,500-ton ships operational.

Furthermore, Alipour noted that the development of port infrastructure in the northern region has increased capacity from 3 to 8 operational parking areas, each generating annual revenues of 200 trillion tomans (approximately \$2.17 billion). In the south, the use of concrete slipways and airbag technology has improved ship-launching and transport capabilities.



IRNA

Pezeshkian tasks ICT Ministry with launching smart gov't digital ecosystems



Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a directive, tasked the ministry of communications with implementing the government's digital ecosystems plan to achieve the objectives of the Seventh Development Plan and advance the smart government.

In a directive addressed to Sattar Hashemi, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Pezeshkian approved the proposed plan for implementing government digital ecosystems and assigned responsibility for executing this major national plan to the Ministry of Communi-

cations and the Information Technology Organization of Iran, IRNA reported.

According to the terms of this directive, the Information Technology Organization is mandated to develop and implement the macro architectures and technical standards for government digital ecosystems within six months.

These ecosystems include the basic data exchange platform, the electronic documents and transactions exchange platform, and the inter-service chain accreditation system.

The implementation of the platforms related to these ecosystems must be carried out on the

government cloud infrastructure platform to enhance the productivity and efficiency of the country's processing infrastructure.

Furthermore, to improve the plan's effectiveness and monitor its implementation, the organization is required to establish, in collaboration with relevant entities, a mechanism for regulation and oversight of its implementation across all entities.

Progress reports on the plan's implementation must also be submitted quarterly to the cabinet ministers.

The implementation program for this plan is structured in three phases. In the first phase, which must be completed within a maximum of six months from the directive's issuance, the ecosystems for finance, taxation, energy, health, cross-border trade, land, supply chain, and immigrants/foreign nationals will be implemented.

The second phase, within a maximum of nine months from the directive's issuance, will encompass the ecosystems for human resources, support, agriculture, tourism, and insurance.

The remaining ecosystems will become operational in the third phase.

Joint chamber: Iraq serves as Iran's gateway to 500m market

Economy Desk

The head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce stated that the advantage of Iranian investment in Iraq is access to the neighboring country's 48-million-person market, as well as the ability to export manufactured goods to other Arab countries as far as North Africa, representing a 480-million-person market.

Jahanbakhsh Sanjabi-Shirazi discussed the scale of Iranian investments in Iraq with ILNA, stating that all sectors in Iran and Iraq have strived to increase investment. However, the joint Iran-Iraq chamber has formulated a plan jointly with the Iran Foreign Investments Company (IFIC), titled the "Investment Attraction Partners Plan in the Joint Iran-Iraq Chamber," aimed at attracting foreign investment.

Regarding the details of this plan, the secretary-general of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce stated that it has led to the identification of investment opportunities and the clarification of rules, laws, and regulations governing investment in Iran. It has also generated considerable interest among small-scale Iraqi investors to invest in Iran.

However, Sanjabi added that there have been obstacles, "the most significant being US sanctions, the absence of banking relations between the two countries, limitations in foreign currency transfer mechanisms into Iran, and certain prevailing foreign exchange policies."



A view of Parviz Khan border terminal in the Qasr-e Shirin Free Trade-Industrial Zone in Kermanshah Province, bordering Iraq

area and Halabja Province.

The secretary-general of joint chamber stated that Iranians have also made investments in other Iraqi provinces within the central plateau region, including even Baghdad, though the scale is smaller compared to investments in other Iraqi provinces.

Outlining the benefits of reciprocal investment between the two countries, Sanjabi said Iraqi investment in Iran has increased due to cheap labor and energy. Furthermore, the advantage for Iranians investing in Iraq is access to its 48-million-person market, as well as the ability to export manufactured goods to other Arab countries as far as North Africa, representing a 480-million-person market.

Highlighting another advantage of Iranian investment in Iraq, he stated that, besides providing an external market for Iranian products, the favorable return on investment in Iraq – due to average price levels, Iraq's supportive laws for foreign investors, and the limited but specific availability of infrastructure inputs for investment projects (such as land and limited electricity and energy infrastructure) – creates an investment environment for Iranians.

"Alongside all these factors, Iraqi investors possess financial resources but lack production experience, knowledge, and technology," he said.


"Therefore, they can establish joint investments with Iranians. Moreover, given the sanctions situation, one effective strategy to circumvent sanctions and mitigate their effects could be Iranian investment in Iraq."

\$700m Iraqi investment in Iran

Regarding the scale of Iraqi investments in Iran, he stated, "It appears that Iraqis have invested \$416 million in Iran up to the year 1402 (began on March 20, 2023), and currently, the figure is approaching \$700 million."

Sanjabi noted that the majority of Iranian investments in Iraq are structured through approvals by provincial investment boards.

Stating that some Iraqi provinces are favorable destinations for Iranian investment projects, he said that southern Iraqi provinces, including Basra, Samawah, and Hillah, followed by Karbala and Najaf at some distance, and in the northern region, provinces like Sulaymaniyah and Erbil, have seen investments from Iranians. Recently, investments have also been made in the Kalar



Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1404/10

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70.000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.50 ave) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 19. Aug.2025 to to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 19.Aug.2025 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Analysis %		
%Fe Ave	66.50	
%FeO	Min 24	Max 28
%P Max	0.05	
%S Max	1.1	
%SiO2 Max	3.0	
%Al2O3 Max	0.7	
%CaO Max	0.9	
%MgO Max	2.5	
%Moisture Max	5.0	
Size ave	80%<0.48 mm	