Qatar’s new port handles first commercial vessels

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Qatar’s new Hamad Port has begun its soft launch, handling the first commercial vessels to call here in December. The new port, situated near to Mesaieed, will eventually become the country’s main cargo gateway.

The occasion was marked by a special ceremony, led by Minister of Transport H.E. Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti. H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and a number of other ministers were also present at the port to witness the landmark arrival of the first vessel, a car carrying ro-ro ship.

H.E. Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti said the port would “modernise the way Qatar handles ocean imports and exports, increasing our maritime trade and facilitate growth and diversification of the country’s economy.”

The new Hamad port will handle a wide range of commodities, including containers. Container lines are expected to start operations here in mid-2016, while cruise ships will also begin calling at Hamad port later this year.

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