

## **MARYLAND DAILY RECORD**

### **Largest container ship at the Port of Baltimore**

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## **WJZ CHANNEL 13**

### **Largest Container Ship Makes First Visit To Balt.**

Alex DeMetrick BALTIMORE (WJZ) — Owned by the MSC line, the Rita is state-of-the-art, yet still traditional enough to carry the name of the Vice President's daughter.

A glimpse of the future tied up to the port of Baltimore, and there is no missing it.

Alex DeMetrick reports it is the largest ship ever to deliver cargo to the port.

The lovely Rita, all 1,065 feet of her, is the most massive cargo ship ever to dock in Baltimore. She won't be the last either, not after you see how she carries her weight.

"Rather than have four or five container ships come in, dropping a couple hundred boxes, now they'll come in and start discharging thousands of boxes," Jim White, port executive director, said.

Owned by the MSC line, the Rita is state-of-the-art, yet still traditional enough to carry the name of the Vice President's daughter.

The Rita can carry more than 8,400 containers from one part of the world to the other. Stacked 10 deep in the hold and seven containers high on deck, it dwarfs the other freighters stopping in Baltimore. The Rita is also no lightweight. Fully loaded, she tops the scales at 105,000 gross tons.

Eventually, though, Rita herself will be eclipsed by new generations of even larger ships. It is a trend that has forced the enlargement of the Panama Canal, and by the time that work is done in 2014, Baltimore plans to have deeper berths and larger cranes to handle the super ships

## WBAL Radio

### Big Ship Headed To Port Of Baltimore

Scott Wykoff

Baltimore welcomed its largest regular service container ship on Monday when the Mediterranean Shipping Company's (MSC) Rita made its initial call at the Port of Baltimore.

The MSC Rita will be part of a direct, weekly service from Baltimore to the Far East.

This ship, which can carry a maximum of approximately 8,085 TEU's (Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit) containers, represents the largest ship the Port of Baltimore can handle until its 50-foot berth is constructed.

In November, a partnership with Ports America Chesapeake was announced. The partnership will include Ports America funding and building the Port a 50-foot berth.

The 50-foot berth will allow ships carrying up to 10,000 TEU containers to visit Baltimore.

The MSC Rita weighs about 105,000 gross tons fully laden, is 1,065 feet in length, 187 feet high, and 140 feet wide. Previously, the largest regular service ship to visit Baltimore was the 6,700-TEU MSC Michaela in 2007

## Journal of Commerce

### MSC Puts 8,085-TEU Ships Into East Coast

#### Largest container ships to call at U.S. East Coast ports

Joseph Bonney

Mediterranean Shipping Co. said it is temporarily using several 8,085-TEU ships, the largest to call at U.S. East Coast ports, in a new weekly Suez Canal service linking Asia with New York-New Jersey, Baltimore, Norfolk and Charleston.

The first of the large ships in the service was the MSC Tomoko, which called at East Coast ports earlier this month. The MSC Rita was scheduled to arrive in Baltimore on Monday following an initial stop in New York-New Jersey, and continue on to Norfolk and Charleston.

MSC plans to use the 8,085-TEU ships temporarily in its new GGS service before redeploying them to other routes, said Allen Clifford, the company's executive vice president in New York.

MSC is solo operator of the GGS service, which will operate on a rotation of Shanghai, Ningbo, Chiwan and Yantian, China; Singapore; Salalah, Oman; Suez Canal; New York-

New Jersey; Baltimore; Norfolk; Charleston; Freeport, Bahamas; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Singapore; Chiwan, Hong Kong and Shanghai.

The new service will provide a 21-day transit from Charleston, the last U.S. port, to Jeddah, the company said.

The arrival of the 8,085-TEU ships is a notable event for U.S. East Coast ports, which have been rushing to prepare for the larger ships that will be able to transit the Panama Canal after 2104 when a multibillion-dollar lock-expansion project is completed.

Baltimore officials said the MSC Rita is the largest ship the port can handle until it completes a 50-foot-deep berth being built at the Seagirt terminal under a 50-year lease agreement the Maryland Port Administration recently signed with Ports America Chesapeake. The 50-foot berth is scheduled for completion in time for the opening of the new locks in Panama.