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Matson Announces New West Coast -- South Pacific Service

"South Pacific Express" links Pacific networks via Honolulu

HONOLULU, June 27, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Matson, Inc. (NYSE: MATX), a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific, has announced the introduction of a fast containership service between the U.S. West Coast and ports in Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga and Fiji.



Starting August 10, 2016, Matson's "South Pacific Express" (SPX) will for the first time link the company's well established West Coast - Hawaii service with its South Pacific network. Using a dedicated ship to carry West Coast cargo transshipped at Honolulu, SPX will provide reliable, same-day-of-week South Pacific arrivals every 28 days, calling on Apia, Samoa; Pago Pago, American Samoa; Nuku'alofa, Tonga; Suva, Fiji and Lautoka, Fiji before returning to Honolulu.

"We have sought for some time the right opportunity to link our networks in the northern and South Pacific in a way that enhances both operations," said Matt Cox, president and chief executive officer. "While it represents a relatively small addition to our route structure, SPX allows us to leverage existing services to expand Matson's service offerings for West Coast shippers and boost our efforts to build fast, reliable services in the South Pacific."

Matson's South Pacific Express will be the only direct service from Hawaii to the South Pacific and the fastest ocean carrier service between North America and the Samoas. The new service will also provide new links and associated economic opportunities among the islands it serves.

Along with competitive transit times from U.S. ports to the South Pacific, Matson's dedicated terminal operations on the West Coast provide shippers using the new SPX service with superior flexibility in cargo receiving any day of the week, faster truck turn times and Matson's extensive chassis inventory in U.S. ports.

Matson will redeploy a vessel in its existing South Pacific fleet, the internationally flagged 510-TEU* vessel *Liloa*, to operate the new service.

This isn't the first time Matson has served the South Pacific from the West Coast. Matson Lines passenger cruises plied the route from the 1930s through the 1960s, establishing early tourism in the Territory of Hawaii and islands of the South Pacific.

* TEU: Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit, the standard unit of measurement for container capacity

About Matson

Founded in 1882, Matson is a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific. Matson provides a vital lifeline to the economies of Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Micronesia and select South Pacific islands, and operates a premium, expedited service from China to Southern California. The Company's fleet of 23 vessels includes containerships, combination container and roll-on/roll-off ships and custom-designed barges. Matson Logistics, established in 1987, extends the geographic reach of Matson's transportation network throughout the continental U.S. Its integrated, asset-light logistics services include rail intermodal, highway brokerage and warehousing. Additional information about Matson, Inc. is available at www.matson.com.

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