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GT USA Wilmington, LLC

## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### THE PORT OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE CELEBRATES FIRST EXPORT SHIPMENT OF FINISHED FORD VEHICLES

WILMINGTON, Del. – The Port of Wilmington, Delaware, a major U.S. East Coast hub for vehicle exports, loaded its first shipment of new Ford vehicles destined for the Middle East on Jan. 7, 2019, welcoming the *Alliance St. Louis*, a specialized Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) vessel operated by Höegh Autoliners.

The *Alliance St. Louis* commenced receiving her cargo of popular Ford models – the F150 pickup truck, Taurus, Edge, Explorer and Lincoln Continental – in the inaugural port call of a multi-year contract secured by logistic partner AutoPort, Inc. With a service frequency of 3 to 4 ship calls per month, Höegh will be delivering Ford products to the Middle East destinations of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.

The Port of Wilmington is the Mid-Atlantic leader in vehicle exports to the Middle East, Mediterranean and West Africa regions.

“We are particularly thrilled to welcome Ford and its portfolio of outstanding vehicles to the Port of Wilmington in support of its direct distribution to global markets,” said Eric Casey, CEO of GT USA Wilmington.

GT USA Wilmington LLC

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Photo: m/v *Alliance St. Louis* at the Port of Wilmington, Delaware on Jan. 7, 2019

### **About the Port of Wilmington, Delaware**

Founded in 1923, the Port of Wilmington is a full service Mid-Atlantic seaport on the Delaware River strategically located to provide overnight access to 200 million North American consumers. Wilmington ranks as North America's top banana port and the nation's leading gateway for imports of fresh fruit and juice concentrates. The Port was one of the originally certified '360 Quality' marine terminals in the United States, underscoring its high-quality handling standards for perishable cargo. An economic engine for the State of Delaware and the region, business activity at the Port creates over 5,900 family sustaining jobs and annually generates \$436 million in business revenue, \$409 million in personal income and \$41 million in local taxes. The Port is operated by GT USA Wilmington, LLC. For further information, visit [www.gulftainer.com/US](http://www.gulftainer.com/US)

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## About GT USA

GT USA is the U.S. division of Gulfainer, the world's largest privately-owned independent port operator and logistics company with operations and business interests in the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Brazil and the United States. GT's presence in North America expanded in 2018 with the signing of a 50-year concession agreement with the state of Delaware to manage and operate the Port of Wilmington, a deep-water port and marine terminal serving the Eastern Seaboard. The company's first venture into the USA came in 2014 with the signing of a 35-year agreement to operate Canaveral Cargo Terminal, a multi-purpose cargo and container terminal in Florida. For more information, visit [www.gulfainer.com/US](http://www.gulfainer.com/US)

## About AutoPort

AutoPort Inc., a privately held vehicle processing and handling company established in 1981, is an ISO 9001 Certified Company headquartered at the Port of Wilmington, Delaware. In its 30-plus years of operation, AutoPort has handled, processed and modified more than 2 million vehicles destined to market for leading U.S.-based automotive manufacturers. For more information, go to [www.autoportinc.com](http://www.autoportinc.com)

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