

# Malta CEF Transport Newsletter



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**Dear readers,**

As we approach the end of the year, we are sharing our annual Malta CEF Transport newsletter which highlights how Onshore Power Supply (OPS) technology is being deployed at Malta's ports with the support of CEF Transport funding<sup>1</sup>. It showcases finalised and ongoing key projects co-funded under this EU-financed programme and underlines the importance of these investments in supporting cleaner, more efficient and sustainable port operations. Through OPS, CEF Transport funding is helping Malta reduce emissions, improve air quality and strengthen its maritime connectivity with Europe, while contributing to the modernisation of national port infrastructure.

Greetings from the NCP CEF Transport Malta team.

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<sup>1</sup> Covering CEF Transport 2014-2020 and CEF Transport 2021-27 programmes

## CEF Newsletter 3 - December 2025

### CEF Transport Funding: Onshore Power Supply Technology in Malta

Malta is taking a decisive step towards maritime sustainability with the implementation of Onshore Power Supply technology in its ports. OPS enables vessels to connect directly to shore-based electricity while berthed, allowing them to switch off their auxiliary engines. Supported by EU Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) funding, Malta's OPS projects are setting new standards for cleaner port operations, contributing directly to national decarbonization commitments and EU climate goals.

In 2024, Malta's first Onshore Power Supply project at the TEN-T Core Port of Valletta marks a major step toward greener maritime operations. This initiative introduced a high-voltage electricity system at Pinto Wharf, Deep-Water Quay, and Boiler Wharf, enabling cruise liners to connect directly to shore power. With an investment of €33 million, of which €21.9 million was co-financed through CEF Transport, Malta is now able to accommodate up to five cruise liners simultaneously. By connecting to shore-based electricity, these vessels can shut down their diesel-powered auxiliary engines, avoiding local emissions and significantly reducing noise.

The project is aimed at reducing over 90% in emissions from cruise ships while docked, including around 36.3% less CO<sub>2</sub> compared to conventional operations. These benefits are improving air quality for many of the 17,000 residents living around the Grand Harbour. In its first year in operation, 94 ship calls have connected to the shore-power network, drawing around 3.7 million kWh of electricity. As more vessels are retrofitted for shore-power connectivity, the benefits of this investment will continue to increase.

Malta is advancing with further investment for onshore power supply. Infrastructure Malta is currently implementing further investment within the Southern Region of the Grand Harbour. This stage will deliver shore-side electrical connections at Ras Hanzir, Laboratory Wharf and Magazine Wharf, three quays that primarily accommodate Ro-Ro and breakbulk vessels and represent the majority of ship calls in this area. Through over €12 million in CEF Transport funding, this project covers the full design, procurement, installation, testing and commissioning needed to supply ships with high- and low-voltage power directly from the shore.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> This investment also secured complimentary funding from the Just Transition Fund (JTF 2021-2027) and Malta national funds

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With this additional investment Malta's TEN-T Core port of Valletta will be able to meet the 2030 targets under the AFIR regulation. With this investment, the project will continue to substantially reduce emissions and improve the environmental quality of the Grand Harbour. Estimates show reductions of 5,840 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, as well as a 93% drop in nitrogen oxides, a 92.6% decrease in particulate matter and a 99.6% reduction in sulphur dioxide when compared to operations relying on marine fuel. These improvements support cleaner air for nearby communities and contribute directly to Malta's decarbonisation strategy and EU climate objectives, while also lowering noise levels at the port.

OPS investment is also being implemented within the other TEN-T Core port in Marsaxlokk. Malta Freeport Corporation is also taking a major leap towards cleaner maritime operations with OPS Freeport - Action B, a new investment that will allow vessels to plug into electricity while berthed. This project extends shore-side power to South Quay Terminal 2 and West Quay Terminal 1, both located in the TEN-T Core Port of Marsaxlokk, part of the EU Scan-Med Corridor. Action B, supported under the CEF Transport programme with over €12 million of EU financing, will enable both large container carriers and Ro-Ro / Ro-Pax vessels to switch off their auxiliary engines and operate using clean onshore electricity.

The importance of this investment is significant. Today, vessels at the Freeport rely on marine gasoil generators during berthing, resulting in air and noise emissions affecting nearby communities such as Birżebbuġa. With OPS in place, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the port will be reduced by 7.2 tonnes, representing a 19.3% reduction from current operations.

Malta's commitment to OPS technology and maritime sustainability marks a major shift in reducing emissions, improving air quality and supporting EU climate objectives. With continued CEF funding and similar projects, the benefits for residents, businesses and the environment will steadily grow.

[Click here to watch video](#)

For more information on CEF Transport Programme, visit our website:

<https://infrastructure.gov.mt/connecting-europe-facility-cef-for-transport/>

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