

Busan Strengthens Maritime Finance Capabilities by Attracting two maritime-finance players

Busan is deepening its maritime-finance ecosystem by attracting two private-sector players: Clarksons and Waterline Partners, with Waterline planning to relocate its headquarters to Busan in phases.

Clarksons is widely recognised for shipbroking, as well as shipping research and market information services used across the industry. Through its research arm, Clarksons provides datasets covering global newbuilding orders, vessel prices, and freight indices (including the ClarkSea Index). In Busan, it is expected to support maritime-related projects, including offshore wind, and to make it easier for local stakeholders to access a global shipping broker's day-to-day market insights and advisory capabilities – particularly in a city where ports, logistics, shipping, and related industries are concentrated.

Waterline Partners is a specialist investment manager focused on the maritime industry. Its scope spans the wider maritime value chain — ship finance, ports and logistics infrastructure, marine energy, and maritime technology — and it is currently managing a maritime fund of around KRW 40 billion. The move aligns with Busan's aim to expand the finance and investment side of its maritime cluster, not only the industrial side.

Together, these arrivals support Busan's broader direction: developing a city where maritime services and maritime investment activity are carried out locally, not only a place where ships and cargo pass through. Over time, Busan expects this to make follow-on moves easier by attracting additional maritime service providers that typically cluster around brokerage, advisory, and specialist investment activity.