

## Z/Yen Newsletter May

### **Busan Strengthens Its Financial Edge with New Firms and legal foundation**

Busan is rapidly advancing its position as a leading global financial center, reinforcing both its industrial depth and institutional foundations. New firms specializing in digital finance, maritime finance, and innovative financial services have recently moved into the Busan International Finance Center (BIFC). The city has also confirmed the opening of a new international maritime and commercial court.

A key milestone is that the onboarding of five prominent firms into D-Space, the financial innovation hub on the 63rd floor of BIFC, was confirmed in March. The new tenants are the KDX consortium, DB Securities, Waterline Partners, Clarksons Korea, and Synergy IB Investment, and they are scheduled to move in during 2026. This development indicates that Busan is broadening its financial base beyond its traditional functions into areas such as digital assets, tokenized securities (STO), startup investment, and maritime asset management.

This expansion builds on Busan's core strengths while opening new growth opportunities. The entry of the KDX Consortium and DB Securities marks a significant step toward next-generation market infrastructure. Leveraging Korea's only blockchain regulation-free zone, Busan has attracted the country's first secondary trading platform for fractional investment, securing a new engine for digital finance growth. In maritime finance, the addition of firms such as Waterline Partners and Clarksons Korea further reinforces Busan's role as a key hub for global shipping and marine finance.

Beyond financial expansion, Busan is also solidifying its legal framework. The Busan International Maritime and Commercial Court is scheduled to open in March 2028. It will handle maritime civil and administrative cases, as well as international commercial disputes, across the southern region of Korea. A strong financial center needs not only financial institutions, but also a legal system that can handle complex business disputes.

Taken together, these developments point to a clear direction. The city is bringing together financial services, industry expertise, and legal infrastructure in a more connected way. As these strengths continue to grow, Busan is building a stronger base for a more distinctive and competitive financial center.