

**Barcelona Europe South Terminal**

Avda. Estany del Port, 91  
08820 El Prat del Llobregat  
Port de Barcelona, Spain

T (34) 93 508 4440

F (34) 93 508 4441

[best.com.es](http://best.com.es)

## **BEST serves the new Rail Service that Connects BEST with Lyon (France)**

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Hutchison Ports BEST, a member of Hutchison Ports, is pleased to announce the launch of the international rail service that connects Barcelona with Lyon (France).

This new weekly service is an important achievement resulting from efforts of different actors, including BEST, to develop Barcelona hinterland connections, making BEST the only container terminal in Spain that offers direct rail services to shippers in European countries with UIC gauge. The service will gradually increase in frequency in the coming months.

Guillermo Belcastro, Hutchison Ports-BEST CEO says “with this new service, along with the existing ones, BEST significantly extends its multimodal offer, placing the Terminal at the forefront of Mediterranean intermodal terminals, making it a competitive alternative to serve the logistics market of both the peninsula and the rest of Southern Europe.”

The new service Barcelona – Lyon, comes in addition to those that BEST regularly operates with origin / destination the main Spanish cities. Among these are: Zaragoza, Madrid, Pamplona, Miranda de Ebro, Tarragona and Burgos.

The new service is part of a one-stop-shop solution being offered, among others, by Synergy (Hutchison Ports BEST rail operator) whose services are available to carriers, freight forwarders and cargo owners, minimizing supply chain risks and [improving competitiveness

The Southern Gateway comes with numerous advantages, for import cargo from Asia and export cargo from the Center North of the peninsula. For many trade lanes, transit times are faster, leading to a reduction in inventory cost and sea freight. At the same time, a shorter voyage leads to reduced CO2 emissions.

Rail traffic at BEST has increased significantly in recent years, going from 10% of full local traffic in 2010, to approximately 20% at present. BEST’s rail connectivity features almost a 100 trains a week, making it the leading terminal in the Iberian Peninsula.

These services will be leveraged through Hutchison Ports BEST operations, one of the most efficient container terminals with a productivity rate of more than 40 movements per hour by crane, one of the highest in the world.

The facilities have one of the most modern gate systems in Europe and one of the largest railway terminals within a container terminal in the Mediterranean, with eight mixed gauge tracks (Iberian and UIC), connecting BEST daily with different points of Spain and South of France. Furthermore, shippers have the possibility of a direct connection with more than 100 ports across the world.