Container Shipping Market Outlook 2025

The Red Sea crisis provided an unexpected bonus for the container shipping market in 2024, as vessel diversions to the Cape route, increased port congestion and a rebound in cargo demand absorbed all of the 3m TEU of new capacity added in the last 12 months. Freight rates and charter rates remain elevated through 2024 with the tight market conditions expected to persist as long as the Red Sea crisis is unresolved.

However, competition amongst container shipping lines will intensify in 2025, with the formation of new shipping alliances involving Gemini and THE Alliance carriers expected to cause significant market disruptions. All of the main carriers are continuing to pursue strategies aimed at growing their operating scale, which will put them in direct competition as the fight for market share escalates.

The speaker will discuss how the competitive landscape for the container shipping market will evolve in the coming year as the carriers push ahead with their new growth plans.