The Panama Canal…
And why it is crucial to global trade
It all started with the Panama Railroad

- It was originally built in 1855
- And was the first ocean-to-ocean land bridge
- It acted as the Atlantic–Pacific California gold rush route
Then came the canal...

- It is now an all-water Atlantic-Pacific transit
- Opened in 1914
- It revolutionized sea trade
- And is considered one of the all-time great engineering feats!
- It also permanently established the strategic importance of Panama
This is where the Panama Canal is located
And this is how it works.

> 3 SET OF LOCKS
> STEPS FOR SHIPS TO NAVIGATE ABOVE SEA LEVEL (LAKES LEVEL)
> GATUN LAKE
> GAILARD CUT
> ALAJUELA LAKE
Existing locks allow vessels this size to pass through

New locks let much bigger ships travel through the canal

Chamber Length 305m (1,000’)
Max. Vessel LOA 294.3m (965’)

Chamber Length 427m (1,400’)
Max. Vessel LOA 366m (1,200’)

12,600 TEU

4,500 TEU

12m (39.5’)

15.2m (50’)

55m (180’)

49m (160’)

32.3m (106’)

33.5m (110’)

12,600 TEU

9,600 TEU
For more information about the liner shipping industry that uses the Panama Canal, visit www.worldshipping.org

For more information about the Panama Canal, visit www.pancanal.com