An exciting new Shanghai to Darwin direct shipping service will begin trial operations this month, creating an important new trade route to Asia. Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today.

Details about the Hai Win Shipping service were outlined by company Director, Frank Guerra, at today’s International Cargo Handling Coordination Association (ICHCA) lunch. Hai Win Shipping has received strong support from China-based exporters and a diverse base of Australian importers.

“Projects like this new, monthly shipping service drive economic growth in the Territory, creating local jobs and new business opportunities,” Ms Martin said.

“This is an opportunity to develop a new trade route for the nation that is of particular benefit to Territory and South Australian importers - our future goal is to establish a shuttle service to China that would benefit exporters as well.

“China has one of the world’s most powerful and rapidly growing economies and this monthly service is an opportunity for the Territory to tap into this lucrative market.

“I am pleased that my Government’s efforts to promote the new AustralAsia trade route throughout the Asian region helped spark interest from the private sector for this service.”

Ms Martin said that the development of a new North-Asia shipping link has been a high priority for her Government for a number of years and was a focus of her visit to China and at the Global Freight Connect conference held in Darwin in February.

“I wish Hai Win Shipping all the best in their efforts to establish this service,” she said.

The first Hai Win vessel will be carrying 250 containers (in twenty-foot equivalents) with almost half destined for Adelaide. It will carry a range of commodities including agricultural chemicals, industrial valves and retail merchandise.

The inaugural service is expected to leave Shanghai on the 11th of November and arrive in Darwin on the 21st November.

Ms Martin said that today’s announcement comes less than a year after Swires Shipping began their Singapore to Darwin route.

“Establishing and growing trade links with Asia is crucial in keeping the Territory moving ahead my Government will continue to explore new
opportunities,” she said.