



News Release

Port Progress Continues with Rail Replacement

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS THIS WEEK ON \$4 MILLION PROJECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2009

The modernization efforts at the Port Authority of Guam will get another boost this week as the port breaks ground on projects that will upgrade the wharf and make delivery of goods to our people more efficient.

This will be the first time wharf upgrades have been conducted in the past 18 years and the first replacement ever of the Gantry Crane Rail system which is more than 30 years old. A ground breaking ceremony will be held at the Port on Tuesday morning.

“Our efforts to transform this port into a world-class facility are coming to fruition,” Port General Manager Glenn Leon Guerrero said. “These wharf upgrades and the new rail system along with our new Gantry Cranes will bring more efficient service to our users and will ensure a quicker delivery of goods to all the people of Guam.”

The Gantry Crane rail system is a steel rail similar to a rail road track that runs alongside the edge of the docks. This is the rail system that allows the Gantry cranes to move up and down the docks. The existing rails were installed in the early 1970s and corrosion has affected the rail system. Even the bearing plates and grout has deteriorated underneath the rails, making it difficult for the gantry cranes to travel freely.

Black Construction was awarded the bid on this project which will cost \$3,928,000 and includes other upgrades to the wharf, including asphalt pavement repairs to all depression and low areas that have been accumulating water, replacement of fendering system, underwater sheetpile repairs, concrete bulkhead repairs and utilities.

“The Port is the lifeline to our community and that is why we are aggressively moving forward to modernize and upgrade this crucial facility,” Leon Guerrero said. “We already have world-class employees. Now, we are giving them the world-class facility they deserve in order to keep serving our community.”

The project is being funded through a combination of operating revenues and insurance settlement funds. The replacement and upgrades are scheduled to take place over an 8-month period. The estimated date of completion is November 2, 2009.

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This week's ceremony is a part of the massive modernization program that the Port has launched with nearly \$200 Million worth of renovations and upgrades planned for the facility. The Port is preparing for the organic growth of our community along with the increased demands that will come with the Guam military buildup.

Tuesday's ground breaking will take place at 9:30 a.m. March 24, 2009. The ceremony will be held dockside. Members of the media wishing to attend the event Tuesday morning are asked to submit the names of those attending and driver's license or social security number no later than Monday afternoon. Please email that information to: jjavelosa@portguam.com, dcaguero@portguam.com and pacruz@portguam.com. On the morning of the ceremony, please meet at the Port Board Room at 9 a.m. to get your badges and be transported inside the facility.

For more information, please contact Port Marketing Administrator Bernadette Meno at (671) 477-5931 ext. 545 or via email at bmeno@portguam.com