

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

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NEWS RELEASE

Port Secures Nearly \$60 Million MARAD Award for New Gantry Cranes

Piti, Guam, April 28, 2026: The Port Authority of Guam has received official notification from the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration confirming the award of nearly \$60 million in federal funding for the acquisition of three new ship-to-shore gantry cranes, marking a major milestone in the Port's modernization efforts.

The funding, awarded through the Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program, will support the procurement, fabrication, delivery, and installation of three new cranes to replace the Port's existing units, which are more than 40 years old and approaching the end of their service life.

The project, titled Strengthening Supply Chain with New Port Cranes, represents a total investment of approximately \$74.5 million, including \$59.6 million in federal funding. The Port Authority of Guam will fund its required local match of approximately \$14.9 million through its existing reserves.

Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio and Port Authority of Guam Board Chair Dorothy P. Harris joined Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, and Congressman James Moylan on Monday, April 27, for a formal announcement at Adelup recognizing the award and its significance to Guam's economy and national security.

"This official notification confirms what our team has been working toward for years," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "I want to recognize and thank our Port Strong employees for the incredible team effort that made this award possible and for continuing to keep our existing cranes operating on our docks every day. Their work is what keeps this port moving."

Respicio added that the Port is also grateful to the U.S. Maritime Administration, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, Congressman James Moylan, the Port Authority Board of Directors, military partners, industry partners, and federal and technical partners including OLDCC, WSP, and Liftech for their continued support and collaboration in advancing the project.

"These will be the first new gantry cranes ever procured by the Port," Respicio said. "The procurement will be structured to evaluate one crane plus shipping, two cranes plus shipping, and three cranes plus shipping to determine overall cost, with the goal of acquiring all three new cranes. Once a contract is awarded,



we estimate approximately two years for manufacturing, delivery, and installation. This investment is about strengthening our operations, improving efficiency, and ensuring we can continue to serve as the island's lifeline and a critical hub for national defense in the Indo-Pacific."

The new cranes will replace aging equipment originally manufactured in the 1980s and acquired secondhand in 2009. While the existing cranes have been maintained and kept operational, engineering assessments have confirmed they must be replaced to ensure long-term reliability and safety.

As the only commercial seaport on Guam, the Port handles more than 90 percent of the island's goods, including food, fuel, medical supplies, and construction materials. The new cranes will significantly enhance cargo handling capacity, improve vessel turnaround times, and strengthen the Port's ability to support both commercial activity and military logistics operations across the region.

With official notification now received, the Port is prepared to move immediately into the next phase of the project. The Invitation for Bid is expected to be issued in the coming weeks, with a multi-step procurement process to follow.

"This is a transformative investment for Guam," said Respicio. "It strengthens our infrastructure, supports economic growth, and ensures the Port remains ready to meet the needs of our island and our region for decades to come."

The Port Authority of Guam will continue to work closely with federal partners to advance the project and will provide updates as the procurement process moves forward.



Port of Guam Gantry Crane Modernization

Overview

The Port Authority of Guam is advancing a critical infrastructure modernization effort to replace its aging ship-to-shore (STS) gantry cranes, ensuring continued operational reliability, cargo efficiency, and support for both commercial and national security needs. The acquisition of new ship-to-shore gantry cranes will mark the first time in the Port's 50-year history as an autonomous agency that it will procure new cranes. All existing cranes were previously second-hand equipment acquired from other U.S. ports.

Current Crane Conditions

The Port's existing gantry cranes are more than 40 years old. Manufactured in 1983 and 1984, the cranes were originally operated at the Port of Los Angeles before being acquired by the Port of Guam, refurbished, and placed into service in 2009. Based on engineering assessments and consultant reports, the cranes will reach the end of their expected service life by 2029 and must be fully replaced to ensure continued safe and efficient operations.

Planning and Early Development

Work to develop specifications for new cranes began in 2019 in coordination with engineering consultants and Port operators. These efforts established technical requirements aligned with operational needs and long-term modernization goals, positioning the Port to move forward when funding became available.

Funding Efforts and Challenges

Since 2019, the Port has pursued multiple federal funding opportunities to support crane replacement, including applications to the Economic Development Administration, USDOT MEGA program, and INFRA grant program. Several early applications were not successful due to funding limitations and regulatory constraints, including compliance challenges related to Build America, Buy America requirements, which restricted procurement of equipment not manufactured in the United States.

Board Action and Procurement Readiness

In April 2024, the Port Authority of Guam Board of Directors approved the procurement of up to three new STS gantry cranes through Resolution No. 2024-01, establishing a strategic path forward for crane replacement and funding reallocation. In October 2024, the Board further approved a multi-phase procurement process under Resolution No. 2024-16, ensuring a compliant and structured approach to acquisition. The procurement package has since been completed and is ready to be issued.



Breakthrough: Buy America Waiver

In February 2025, the U.S. Maritime Administration granted a Build America, Buy America waiver for STS gantry cranes in Pacific territories. This waiver removed a longstanding barrier to procurement, recognizing that these cranes are not manufactured domestically and enabling the Port of Guam to move forward with its acquisition strategy.

PIDP Funding and Federal Support

In September 2025, the Port submitted a proposal to the U.S. Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program for the acquisition of three new gantry cranes under the project titled Strengthening Supply Chain with New Port Cranes. The project will fund three new STS gantry cranes to replace aging units from the 1980s, strengthening Guam's supply chain and ensuring reliable port operations. The total project cost is \$74,586,792, with \$59,669,434 requested in federal funding and \$14,917,358 in non-federal match.

The Port's crane project has also advanced through federal advocacy through active engagement by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, Guam's Delegate to Congress, senators, and other local and federal partners including the Department of War, MARAD, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), and the U.S. Coast Guard, to align the Port's modernization with civilian and military buildup mitigation efforts.

On March 6, 2026, Port General Manager Rory J. Respicio and Port Board Vice Chair Conchita Taitano met at the U.S. Maritime Administration headquarters with Sang H. Yi, Deputy Administrator of the Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, along with Peter Simons, Director of MARAD's Office of Port Infrastructure Development, to discuss the Port of Guam's infrastructure priorities and the Port's critical role in supporting regional commerce, national security, and energy logistics in the Indo-Pacific.

What Comes Next

With funding secured, the Port is prepared to move immediately into procurement. The Invitation for Bid is expected to be issued in the coming weeks. The procurement process will follow a multi-step evaluation and award process and is expected to take several months to complete. Once awarded, the project timeline includes approximately two years for manufacturing, assembly, transport, and installation of the new cranes.

Looking Ahead

The replacement of the Port's gantry cranes represents one of the most significant infrastructure investments in its history. As the only commercial seaport on Guam, handling more than 90 percent of the island's goods, the Port remains committed to building a stronger, more resilient, and future-ready operation.