



News Release

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Alabama State Port Authority Signs \$4.2M Contract Intermodal Container Transfer Facility Planned

Mobile, Ala. – December 23, 2005 – The Alabama State Port Authority (Port Authority) took another giant step toward its goal to establish a world class container and rail intermodal terminal on the Central Gulf of Mexico. The Authority’s board of directors on Tuesday awarded HDR Inc., a \$4.2 million engineering design and construction management services contract for the Authority’s proposed Intermodal Container Transfer Facility at Choctaw Point. James K. Lyons, Director and CEO of the Port Authority, advised, “This contract for HDR to design and ultimately manage the construction of the rail intermodal terminal accelerates our phased construction of Choctaw Point Terminal.” HDR Inc. is a full service architectural and engineering firm based in Omaha Nebraska with offices located throughout the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

The HDR contract represents the last in a series of engineering contracts for the Choctaw Point Terminal. To date, the Authority has expended \$75 million in engineering and construction contracts for the project. The decision to move forward on the intermodal container transfer facility came on the heels of the Authority’s announcement to partner with APM Terminals and CMA CGM on the container terminal. “We believe the increased container volume we are currently experiencing coupled with the anticipated volumes that will develop when Stage 1 of the container terminal is completed will warrant a functional rail intermodal yard to increase services and efficiencies for shippers,” Lyons stated.

Alabama State Port Authority (<http://www.asdd.com>) operates the State of Alabama’s deepwater port facilities in Mobile, Ala. The Authority directly employs 570 workers and its facilities handle more than 24 million tons of cargo each year. Alabama’s full service seaport handles containers, breakbulk, bulk and oversized and heavy lift cargoes. The Authority’s proposed Choctaw Point Terminal and its general cargo and bulk facilities are located at the Port of Mobile with immediate access to two interstate systems, five Class 1 railroads, and nearly 15,000 miles of inland waterway connections.

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