



TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY

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Port of Tampa/AMPORTS bring together major auto manufacturers and supply chain leaders for innovative Short Sea Automotive Summit



Pictured: Major auto manufacturers and logistics sector representatives listen to Steve Rand, President & CEO of AMPORTS, as he discusses the Port of Tampa project as a new and viable automobile import / export hub. The group attends a tour of AMPORTS' new Port of Tampa auto processing facility.

TAMPA, Fla.—The Tampa Port Authority (TPA) and strategic partners AMPORTS, CSX and Ports America co-hosted the Inaugural Tampa Automotive Short Sea Summit on Tuesday, bringing together decision makers from many of the world's largest auto manufacturers and high level representatives from the automobile logistics and supply chain sectors for a day-long summit to exchange ideas to bolster the Port of Tampa as the next gateway for automobile imports and exports to and from Mexico and Latin America.

After forming a partnership with the port authority earlier this year, AMPORTS, North America's largest auto processor, partnered to create an auto processing and distribution facility at the port to handle the processing of new automobiles, which essentially readies new car imports and exports directly for the consumer market. AMPORTS recently completed construction and renovations to the dockside auto processing facility, at the port's berth 202, which allows for roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) activity.

The group was welcomed by Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandy Murman and Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, who offered their perspectives on the many benefits of doing business at the Port of Tampa. They invited the prestigious group, which included representatives from CSX, ocean carriers, truckers and other supply chain partners, to take a closer look at Tampa Bay for its many opportunities and business-friendly climate. Port President and CEO Paul Anderson and Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Raul Alfonso, who have led the charge to get Tampa Bay on the mind of the automotive industry, were very encouraged by the discussions and believe the open two-way dialog has set the tone to create the right environment and momentum for the Port of Tampa to become an emerging option for the automotive industry for imports and exports.

“This summit today is a huge step in our determination to make Tampa a bona fide hub for new automobiles into the region. We have the facilities, the land and the logistics to make this work,” Paul Anderson, port president and CEO, said. “It is our goal to continue to build on our diversification and bring in this exciting new business that will offer real logistics solutions to the manufacturers and carriers as we look ahead and make this happen.”

“We are excited to showcase our newest auto processing facility at the Port of Tampa, which will give the automotive industry a new and exciting turn-key solution to their supply chain needs. AMPORTS’ partnership with the Port of Tampa, CSX and Ports America gives the automotive logistics and supply chain industry a viable, affordable and efficient plant-to-dealer solution for their import and export needs,” said Steve Rand, president and CEO of AMPORTS.

The Port of Tampa is the largest economic engine in west central Florida, supporting nearly 80,000 jobs and generating almost \$15 billion in annual economic impact. In addition to being a top 10 U.S. cruise port, the port handles a wide array of bulk, break bulk, containers and roll-on/roll-off cargoes, and is a major shipbuilding and repair center. The Port of Tampa was recently voted “Simply the Best” for world-class customer service in a Logistics Management Magazine reader poll. For more information, visit www.tampaport.com.