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Alabama State Port Authority Seeks Partner for Pinto Island Steel Terminal

Nov. 12, 2009 Mobile, Ala. The Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA) has issued a request for proposals (RFP) to lease and operate the Pinto Island Steel Terminal (Pinto Terminal). ASPA is seeking a private-sector partner who can lease and operate the \$100 million terminal located in Mobile, Ala., scheduled to be complete by the end of the year.

The qualified company would lease the facility, perform day-to-day operations, handle staffing and maintain the equipment. The terminal already has a standing commitment to transfer from ship to barge inbound steel slabs for the ThyssenKrupp Steel USA (TK) plant set to open in north Mobile County in early 2010. About 80 percent of the facility's storage space will be used by TK, but the rest is open for public use.

The Pinto Terminal is specially designed to handle steel using three cranes equipped with electro-permanent magnets. The cranes can also handle electro-hydraulic buckets or grapples. The cranes are designed to transfer cargo from ships onto barges which sit in a dockside slip and are moved using an automated pulley system. The dock draft is 45 feet, allowing for larger vessels to call on the Pinto Terminal.

"This is a unique terminal and ASPA is looking for the right partner to help us grow this portion of our business," said Jimmy Lyons, director and CEO of ASPA. "We have TK on board and there is a lot of opportunity for new and bigger business here in the Port," he added. As the RFP points out, Alabama is one of the fastest growing states in the nation in terms of industry.

Companies interested in responding will have to submit, among other things, a plan for hiring employees, operating and maintaining the terminal, as well as financial statements demonstrating their ability to take on the project. Representatives have to schedule a site visit and submit their documents by 4 p.m., CDT, Dec. 14, 2009. A decision will be made by the end of the year. Questions may be directed to pinto@asdd.com and a complete copy of the RFP is available on the notice section of ASPA's Web site, www.asdd.com.

About the Alabama State Port Authority

The Alabama State Port Authority, headquartered in Mobile, Ala., owns and operates the State of Alabama's deepwater port facilities in Mobile. The Authority directly employs 700 workers and its public facilities handled 28 million tons of cargo last year. The Authority's container, general cargo and bulk facilities have immediate access to two interstate systems, five Class 1 railroads, and nearly 15,000 miles of inland waterway connections. Learn more at www.asdd.com.