



Ports Sponsor Green Technology Conference Innovation to Improve Air Quality, Security, Energy Efficiency

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Moving aggressively to reduce emissions, the San Pedro Bay Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have gained international attention for their innovative strategies to lower pollution from ships, trucks, trains and other heavy equipment with cutting-edge "green technologies." To promote dialogue on new technologies, the ports will host their first-ever San Pedro Bay Ports Technology Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 28 at the Doubletree Hotel, 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina in San Pedro.

The conference will include panel discussions on technology being developed under the ports' Technology Advancement Program (TAP), and issues involved in start-up manufacturing, marketing and funding. Among the key goals of the event are to provide information about promising technology to current and prospective vendors, and to provide an opportunity for vendors, financial experts, potential investors and other interested parties to network and possibly team up.

The conference – sponsored by the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach in association with the San Pedro and Wilmington chambers of commerce -- will bring together entrepreneurs, financial and legal experts, officials from the two ports and other stakeholders to talk about technological challenges and opportunities in the fields of air quality, energy efficiency, security and more.

"This is great opportunity for entrepreneurs and financiers to meet and discuss prospects related to the green technologies that our ports are pioneering in line with the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan," said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D. "The next step in this progression is to create 'green collar' jobs in our harbor communities, with new ventures that can benefit our ports and the goods movement industries."

"Implementing new clean-air technologies can't happen without strategic partnerships," said Port of Long Beach Executive Director Richard D. Steinke. "This conference will help create those partnerships, and in turn produce a greener goods-movement system to benefit the entire maritime industry and our local communities."

The ports' Technology Advancement Program is one of the most dynamic aspects of the comprehensive San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, approved by the two ports in November 2006. The technology program is funded with \$1.5 million contributed annually by each port over a period of five years.

Among the projects being developed under TAP is a hybrid diesel-electric tugboat that will utilize a combination of diesel engines, generators and batteries to lower fuel consumption and reduce diesel particulate and oxides of nitrogen emissions by 44 percent over tugs that currently operate in the San Pedro Bay port complex. Construction of the hybrid tugboat is scheduled to be completed later this year.

Another TAP project involves new fuel-injector systems that have been installed aboard the APL Singapore, a container ship that delivers cargo monthly to the San Pedro Bay from China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The technology enables bunker fuel used in the ship's main engine to burn more completely, lowering oxides of nitrogen, diesel particulate and other pollutants. The fuel-injection system will be evaluated in the coming months.

In yet another project under TAP, diesel particulate filters will be installed this summer on switch locomotives that operate at the ports, a step that's expected to reduce diesel particulate emissions from the locomotive engines by 90 percent.

William Lyte, president of Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce, is convinced that the ports – working with local academic institutions and business groups – can leverage the Technology Advancement Program to establish incubators and encourage technology-based enterprise zones to sprout in surrounding communities. Already, for example, the San Pedro Peninsula Chamber of Commerce is discussing the creation of a technology incubator linked to TAP.

As the ports prepare to deal with increasing cargo in the years ahead, the need for new technology that can enhance security measures and reduce emissions is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed, Lyte said.

"A massive effort is under way to reinvent how these ports operate that will become a cornerstone of technological innovation in Southern California," he said. "Systems used in the San Pedro Bay ports may well become global standards."

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