



Port Seeks Pollution-Free Cargo Mover Demonstration project will feature futuristic technology

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The Port will seek out the top ideas for a pollution-free cargo-moving system that could one day replace the trucks that travel between Port marine terminals and a local rail yard, Long Beach Harbor Commissioners voted on Monday, March 23, 2009.

The Port will enlist a panel of outside, independent experts to help evaluate concepts for a "zero-emission container mover system" demonstration project for the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA).

The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and ACTA are searching for new technology to move containers between docks and the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility near West Long Beach, potentially eliminating thousands of short-haul truck trips each day. Proposed technologies might include "magnetic levitation" rail or "fixed electric guide-ways," both of which use electricity to power the movement of cargo, rather than diesel-fueled trucks.

"If we were able to put in place a zero-emission container movement system, it would reduce tremendously the number of trucks that we would need to replace in our drayage fleet," said James C. Hankla, President of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners. "This is something that I have long hoped that we would be able to move and I'm delighted we're doing it and I hope it's going to have a fruitful outcome."

The Port expects to put out a "request for qualifications" within 30 days to ask zero-emission technology vendors to submit initial financial and technical information. The submissions would likely be due in June and evaluated over the summer and fall of 2009. Based upon the results, ACTA might then issue a "request for proposals" for the design, construction and operation of the system to teams pre-qualified on the strength of their earlier submission.

The Harbor Commission has approved the hiring of the USC Keston Institute for Public Finance and Infrastructure Policy as the consultant to provide outside expertise for the process.

Contact: Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Assistant Director of Communications/Public Information Officer, (562) 590-4123, (562) 619-5665 (cell), or wong@polb.com.