



TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY

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Photos: About 100 regional shippers and regional business development professionals learn about trade development opportunities at the Container Trade and Distribution Center workshop, held at the Tampa Port Authority on November 3. Right: Port representatives and panel experts (left to right) Doug Wray, Ports America, Tampa; Jim Brennan, Norbridge Inc.; Rich Higgins, Beall's Inc.; Chris Steinocher, Tampa Bay Partnership; Michael DelBovo, Saddle Creek Corp.; Shawn Ewen, Zim American Integrated Shipping Services Co., Inc.; and Wade Elliott, Senior Director of Marketing for the Tampa Port Authority. (photos by Andy Fobes)

Port of Tampa workshop highlights container trade and distribution center opportunities

TAMPA, Fla.—The Tampa Port Authority (TPA) hosted a workshop on November 3, focusing on container trade, logistics and distribution center developments, an event that was co-sponsored by TPA, port terminal operator Ports America and the Tampa Bay Partnership. Approximately 100 executives participated in the fourth annual workshop “Container Trade and Distribution Center Opportunities,” representing firms and organizations involved in international trade, transportation and logistics, including exporters, importers, carriers and the industrial real estate sector.

Chris Steinocher, Chief Operating Officer of the Tampa Bay Partnership, returned this year to moderate the five-member panel discussion. Participating as panelists were Jim Brennan, partner with Norbridge, Inc.; Shawn Ewen, vice president, South Atlantic District, Zim American Integrated Shipping

Services Co., Inc.; Michael DelBovo, vice president marketing & business development, Saddle Creek Corp.; and Rich Higgins, divisional vice president of transportation, Beall's Inc.

"The Tampa Bay region is emerging as a major distribution center gateway," noted Richard Wainio, Tampa's port director and CEO. "With a population of eight million and a GDP of more than \$272 billion, the Tampa-Orlando I-4 corridor is the tenth-largest economy in the United States. This is a major driving force behind our expanding container business."

Wainio began the discussions with an update on port expansion projects underway, including the recent completion of the latest phase at the Port of Tampa Container Terminal, increasing the terminal's footprint from 25 to 40 acres.

"This is the fourth year we have put together this informative afternoon of discussions with some top-notch experts in logistics and distribution. With determination and a solid business plan to grow container trade well into the future, the Tampa Port Authority is the perfect venue for these discussions," Wainio said.

One of the nation's largest and most diversified seaports, the Port of Tampa is the largest economic engine in west-central Florida, responsible for nearly 100,000 jobs and \$8 billion in annual economic impact. For more information about the Port of Tampa, visit www.tampaport.com.

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