Enhancing safety at two of world's largest ports

While CH2M HILL's program management contract to expand the Panama Canal is getting a lot of attention, several business groups are also hard at work to improve global commerce by strengthening safety and security and reducing environmental impacts at the ports in Long Beach and Los Angeles, California.

Port of Long Beach

Through the Manufacturing and Life Sciences Business Group, CH2M HILL is providing architecture, engineering, and construction support services for a $21 million, 25,110-square-foot (2,333-square-meter), three-story security command and control center at the Port of Long Beach.

Scheduled for completion this fall, the center will protect the busiest port complex in the United States, which handles 45 percent of the nation's containerized imported goods. Employees from the Port of Long Beach Security Division, the Port of Los Angeles Police, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol will use the new center.

CH2M HILL's design incorporates Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) principles. Other unique features include a 15,000-pound (6,804-kilogram) capacity rooftop heliport, an integrated communications and surveillance system tied to the city's emergency operations center, and 100 percent generator backup power. In addition, the facility will support the port's underwater dive team for patrol and rescue efforts.

"This command and control center marks the beginning of a new era in port security," said Long Beach Harbor Commission President James C. Hankla during last year's waterfront groundbreaking ceremony. "The facility will give us room to house a growing security division, room for the new tools it needs, and room for our partners to work with us in an emergency."

Through other contracts, CH2M HILL is also providing on-call environmental document preparation and water system assessment. The Enterprise Management Solutions Business Group is providing geographical information systems (GIS) services, including onsite data management and analysis, map production, systems upgrade and maintenance, training, and design and implementation of an enterprise GIS system to enable sharing of data across the entire organization.

Size stats: Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach

- Port of Los Angeles: 7,500 acres, 43 miles (69.2 km) of waterfront, and 27 cargo terminals
- Port of Long Beach: 3,200 acres, 16 piers, 80 berths, and 71 post-Panamax gantry cranes

Port of Los Angeles

CH2M HILL was recently awarded three contracts to provide a variety of environmental services to the Port of Los Angeles, the largest container port in the United States. Representing wins for the Environmental Services, Industrial Systems, and Transportation business groups, these contracts are the next step in CH2M HILL's 20-year history of serving the Port of Los Angeles and will position the port for continued dynamic growth.

"CH2M HILL commends the Port of Los Angeles for continuing its leadership role in developing and implementing the cutting-edge strategies that will improve health and quality of life for local residents and reduce the environmental impact of port operations," said Jim Hunter, CH2M HILL's Los Angeles area manager.

The Port of Los Angeles: An economic powerhouse

- 1.1 million jobs in California
- 3.3 million jobs in the U.S.
- $89.2 billion in California trade value
- $223 billion in U.S. trade value
- $5.1 billion in state tax revenue
- $21.5 billion in federal tax revenue

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New air quality contract

CH2M HILL received a 3-year contract for on-call air quality services, including air emission inventory, review of state and federal environmental documents, bay-wide health risk assessment, tracking and interpretation of regulations, measuring emission of mobile sources, greenhouse gas inventory and reduction strategies, and evaluating and implementing emerging emission reduction technologies.

The air quality services contract continues the proactive steps taken by the Port of Los Angeles to implement the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, signed in 2006 in conjunction with the Port of Long Beach. The plan outlines how the ports will continue expansion to support commercial growth, while reducing air emissions and health impacts to neighboring communities.

Since emission reduction strategies and technologies developed through this plan will be shared with local, state, and national agencies, the plan is being closely watched by ports worldwide. This win puts CH2M HILL front and center in developing a cutting-edge approach to reducing air emissions and related health effects as a result of port operations.

The Samoter 2008 International Most Significant Project in the World award is presented to the Panama Canal Authority. From left to right: Luigi Castelletti, president of the Verona Fair Authority; Luigi Bersani, Italian minister of economic development; and Alberto Alemán Zubieta, Panama Canal Authority administrator and chief executive.

“Most significant project in the world”

Earlier this year, the Panama Canal expansion project was recognized for its worldwide significance in terms of setting the standard for world-class infrastructure development and construction.

On March 6, the Autoridad del Canal de Panama (ACP) (Panama Canal Authority)—CH2M HILL’s client for the Panama Canal expansion project—received the prestigious Samoter 2008 International Most Significant Project in the World award.

The award honors those that, through significant works and technologically advanced projects, contribute to the development of construction at both national and international levels.

“This award truly recognizes the importance and scope of the Panama Canal project,” said Mike Kennedy, Transportation Business Group president. “The ACP’s vision and leadership is inspiring, and we are proud to be part of this world-changing project. The ACP should be extremely pleased to receive this recognition.”

In April, at the sixth Latin American Leadership Forum held in Miami, Florida, the Panama Canal expansion project was also named the Long-term Performance Project of the Year, recognizing world-class Latin America infrastructure projects; and the Strategic Project of the Year, recognizing those projects that are changing the construction industry in Latin America.

Jose Barrios, deputy administrator and chief financial officer of the ACP, said, “I accept these prizes on behalf of the ACP’s 10,000 employees…and want to thank our partners from CH2M HILL, present here, as without them the success of this project will not be possible.”

Scheduled for completion in 2014, the Panama Canal expansion project is adding new, larger locks, which will allow longer and wider ships to pass through the canal. The new locks will double the tonnage capacity of the canal.