

- Puerto Rico-

Las Américas Port to receive post-Panamax gantry cranes

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Puerto Rico's Las Américas Port (PLA) will start operating two post-Panamax gantry cranes in February 2010, port authority APA reported in a release.

The gantry cranes were acquired by APA at a cost of US\$22.7mn from Chinese firm Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industry (ZPMC), according to the report.

The cranes left Shanghai on November 29 and are already on their way to the port, which is located in Ponce city in the island's southern region. PLA, which is currently in its second phase of construction, will involve investment of US\$750mn over a 10-year period, and will create 12,000 direct and indirect jobs, the report said.

The port is designed to serve post-Panamax cargo ships and will have a capacity of up to 2.2mn TEUs.

CONCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

APA announced in October that it would begin operating part of the port in 2010, amid reports that the process to concession PLA had failed.

Negotiations between APA and South Korean-US consortium UCW America, which won the contract to operate the facility, started in late May.

However, the September 11 deadline to finalize the contract passed without any official announcement, and neither party presented a contract to extend the official negotiation process, leading local papers to speculate that talks had broken down.

Business News Americas