



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Andy Fobes, TPA PR Director, 813.905.5132 or [afobes@tampaport.com](mailto:afobes@tampaport.com)

### Port Tampa Bay awarded \$1.6 million in FEMA port security grant program, highest of Florida ports



Port Tampa Bay, the state’s largest and most diversified seaport, has been awarded \$1.6 million in port security grant funding by FEMA. The port authority will be able to invest in security- and safety-related projects with this funding.

TAMPA, Fla.—  
Port Tampa Bay  
announces that  
that state’s  
largest seaport



has been awarded \$1.6 million in the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The PSGP provides \$100 million nationwide for transportation infrastructure security activities and facility security plans among port authorities, facility operators and state and local government agencies required to provide port security services.

With the new grant award of \$1,609,440, Port Tampa Bay will plan to engage in new projects such as cyber security assessment and monitoring, improving the port’s ability to detect, assess, and mitigate cyber security threats, as well as a deployable barrier system that will provide security personnel with the ability to deploy a waterborne solution, efficiently, to various access points leading into critical areas.

“We at Port Tampa Bay are extremely grateful to the federal government, FEMA in particular, and the funding that has been granted to us through the Port Security Grant Program, which this year is the highest award granted to any Florida port. It is our intent to utilize this generous funding to its highest and best uses, and therefore provide the most up-to-date safety and security methods and training that are available to a port of our size, with major importance to West and Central Florida,” Paul Anderson, port president and CEO, said.

The port will also enhance current capabilities such as the addition of radar camera equipment that will extend port monitoring coverage, and a software upgrade to portable identification biometric readers, thus enhancing the security department’s access control and compliance procedures pertaining to the verification of Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC).

Port Tampa Bay has been successful in recent years to acquire much-needed federal funding for its security enhancements and infrastructure. Unlike most ports in the state of Florida, Port Tampa Bay has many access points that are spread out by great distances—all of which require controlled access and remote monitoring.

*Port Tampa Bay is Florida’s largest port and the largest economic engine in west central Florida, supporting nearly 80,000 jobs and generating almost \$15 billion in annual economic impact. In addition to being a top 10 U.S. cruise port, the port handles a wide array of bulk, break bulk, containers and roll-on/roll-off cargoes, and is a major shipbuilding and repair center. Port Tampa Bay is the first seaport in the U.S. to receive the designation as “StormReady” by the National Weather Service.*



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