



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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The Port of South Louisiana unveiled a third security vessel in its fleet to patrol the Mississippi River and provide security in its 54-mile port district. The \$1.3 million state-of-the-art is the first such security command boat for the Port and unlike any other in the country.

The *PSL Responder* is a 57 foot Dauntless Class Vessel equipped with the latest in communications and surveillance equipment. She is equipped with 1750 horsepower and capable of speeds in excess of 30 knots.

The vessel will be used for a variety of port security maritime response missions throughout the Port of South Louisiana and in support of the Coast Guard in its various marine safety/security missions within the 300-mile long Lower Mississippi River.

“The Port of South Louisiana has turned out to be a model for many other port areas of how to approach homeland security on a layered basis where we’re trying to perform a layer of security around the entire port and not just one specific area,” said Port of South Louisiana Executive Director, Joel Chaisson. “We can provide security such that we’re all on the same wave length with respect to security and communication devices where we have communication with all of the ports and likewise we can respond.”

The PSL Responder was purchased with funds from the Department of Homeland Security Port Security Grant Program (Round 5).

The vessel is the second in the Port’s fleet to be built by SeaArk Marine of Monticello, Arkansas, joining the *Accardo* purchased in 2005.

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The Port of South Louisiana, comprising St. Charles, St. John and St. James parishes on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, is the largest tonnage port in the Western Hemisphere and the world’s 8th largest tonnage port.