



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

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The Port of South Louisiana dedicated its newest security vessel, the *PSL Responder*, among hundreds of public officials, business representatives, and other guests at Globalplex Intermodal Terminal on the Mississippi River on August 15. The ship is the third security vessel in the Port's 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.

“This Port is of great importance to the world as it handles some of the most important commodities that contribute to the world's economy – petrochemicals, crude oil, and grain. We must keep it safe for all,” said Port of South Louisiana Executive Director, Joel Chaisson. The *PSL Responder* is also available to the other four deepwater ports in the Lower Mississippi River, if circumstances call for it, based on the alliance we formed last year,” he added.

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, with telecommunications provided, programmed and installed by Teledyne Solutions. Representatives from these two companies as well as Captain Lincoln Stroh, Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector New Orleans, spoke at the dedication.

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.



From left to right: Paul Zimmermann, Director of Operations, Port of New Orleans; Jay Hardman, Executive Director, Port of Greater Baton Rouge; Bobby Scafidel, Executive Director, Port of St. Bernard; Joel Chaisson, Executive Director, Port of South Louisiana; and Urban Treuil, Port Manager, Port of Plaquemines Parish.