



MINUTES OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Port of Wilmington, Delaware
Administration Building, 1 Hausel Road, Boardroom
Wilmington, Delaware

Tom Armstrong, Chairman of the Information Technology Committee, called the meeting to order. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Inigo Thomas – Port of Wilmington, DE
Karen Ryan Tobia – The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Bill Silberman - ASI (Invited Guest)
Gustavo Espinosa - Port of Corpus Christi
Pam Everitt - South Carolina State Ports Authority
Larry Sposi – Booze, Allen & Hamilton
Lisa Himber - Maritime Exchange of the Delaware River and Bay
Guri Singh - Maritime Exchange of the Delaware River and Bay
Jerrold Larrieu - Port of New Orleans
Orin Rehorst - Port of Houston Authority
Tom Armstrong - Georgia Ports Authority

The meeting began at 9:00 A.M. with a welcoming by the meeting host, Inigo Thomas.

The first agenda item was brought forward by Orin Rehorst. POHA requested a discussion of whether the represented ports were receiving vessel manifests and if so, for what purposes they were being used.

A quick polling of attendees took place and the consensus was that vessel manifests were received, mostly through the U.S. Customs AMS system. Uses of the manifests varied from downstream processing in proprietary operational and billing systems, to that of statistics recording, as well as for various customer service reporting functions.

The second topic was a general discussion on the need for standardized EDI practices between the U.S. Class 1 railroads and the port operators. It was generally agreed that there is a need for cargo tracking information via EDI and, but for a few cases, that it currently does not exist. Since there was no West Coast representation at this meeting it was decided to have a follow up e-mail



exchange regarding this topic and develop a plan of action if there is a need. Tom Armstrong will initiate the e-mail campaign and follow up with the [AAR](#) if needed.

Karen Ryan Tobia of The Port of New York & New Jersey, with assistance from Bill Silberman of ASI, gave a demonstration of a new web-enabled product developed by the Port of New York and New Jersey called FIRST.

FIRST is an acronym for Freight Information Real-Time System for Transport. This system is intended to be the repository and reporting system for all cargo moving through the various marine and rail terminal facilities in The Port of New York & New Jersey.

Additionally, the system is intended to provide real time data to all users of the port to facilitate efficient surface transportation practices. The system is extremely robust and to try and describe it in a written synopsis does not do it justice. The system's functionality can be viewed first-hand at <http://www.firstnynj.com/>.

Karen explained that interest in using the system has been expressed by other port authorities and that there may be a potential for use of the system outside the NY and NJ area.

Following the demonstration we had a brief discussion regarding an IT competition for the Fall Conference. Karen Ryan Tobia is to provide more details at a later date regarding this subject.

Lastly, we broke for lunch followed by the commencement of the TOPAS meeting.