



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Creation of a GIS Framework

Abstract

This request is for the creation of a GIS framework to provide up-to-date spatial information to port security personnel and public safety agencies.

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Overview

Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (Plaquemines Port) is the “Gateway to the Mississippi River” that provides layered maritime domain security along the 100 miles of the lower Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. Plaquemines Port is a member of the lower Mississippi River Port-Wide Strategic Security Council, a group comprised of the (5) deep-draft ports operating on the lower Mississippi River, that share a communications network, with the ability to share real-time video surveillance streams and utilize remote operation capabilities at each of the member ports through the integrated Maritime Security Operations Centers (MSOCs) at each of the ports.

Because Plaquemines Parish encompasses the last shipping lanes on the lower Mississippi River, it is the site of several oil refineries, which rely on the shipping lanes for moving their product. The Mississippi River Delta of Plaquemines is also a base for assistance to offshore oil rigs. Due to its vulnerable location, the Plaquemines Port maintains a readiness to respond to any emergency in the area, whether it be intentional, accidental or natural. Plaquemines Port also provides support to the United States Coast Guard Station (USCG) located in Venice, Louisiana, by continuously patrolling this vital link of the lower Mississippi River up to the Plaquemines Parish boundary at mile 81.7 AHP.

Plaquemines Port is located in the New Orleans Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone which is designated as the Federal Maritime Security Coordinator (FMSC). The Port area is included in the COTP’s responsibility of establishing the AMSC and developing an AMS Plan. Plaquemines Port is classified as a Tier I Port representing the highest security risk, based on the need for protection of critical port infrastructure from terrorism. Approximately 300 million tons of traffic pass through the Plaquemines Port annually. Unfortunately, along with this commerce comes the possibility of terrorist intent on conducting radical devastation and chaotic activity.

Plaquemines Port, charged with the responsibility of providing maritime security in its territorial jurisdiction, is also accountable for rescue operations, fire protection, and traffic control for Plaquemines Parish Government. This includes being designated as the motor vehicle authority stationed within 100 yards of both active Mississippi River ferry crossings at Belle Chasse and Point-ala-Hache. These areas are extremely susceptible to terrorist-related activities whose objective is to cause the loss of innocent lives along with disruption of the flow of Mississippi River traffic.