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Press Release

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Ports America and Port Leadership Dedicate New Mobile Harbor Crane

PORT OF HUENEME, CALIFORNIA – Port leadership joined with Ports America to formally christen the stevedoring company’s newest heavy-lift addition to the Port of Hueneme, a Liebherr LHM 420 Litronic Mobile Harbor Crane. The new crane is the second Ports America crane to be put into action at the Port. “This 376 ton mobile harbor crane greatly increases shore side productivity in tandem with our existing crane and increases our flexibility to work more than one ship at a time,” said Ports America’s site manager Kevin Beirne.

The new crane joins an existing Liebherr LHM 320 Mobile Harbor Crane known on the waterfront as ‘Big Blue’. Both cranes were built by the Liebherr Nenzing Crane Company in Austria. The new LHM 420 is the most modern crane of its kind in the world and the only one on the West Coast of North America. With a slightly larger footprint than ‘Big Blue’ the New LHM 420 has a 124 ton capacity. Said Port Commission President Jason Hodge, “This crane will greatly enhance our labor’s productivity and allow for quicker ship turnarounds. This enhancement further allows us to market the port for additional project cargos.”

Chiquita’s Director of North American Port Operations Scott Nerell said, “We are very pleased with the addition of the second Liebherr crane by Ports America at the Port of Hueneme. This solidifies a commitment to Chiquita that helps ensure our west coast containerized operations are safe, efficient and competitive.”

The Liebherr family business was established in 1949 by Hans Liebherr. Today Liebherr is not only one of the world’s leading manufacturers of construction machinery but is also an acknowledged supplier of technically innovative, user-oriented products and services in numerous other fields. The Liebherr Group’s holding company is Liebherr-International AG in Bulle, Switzerland, which is entirely owned by members of the Liebherr family. The family business is already in the hands of the second generation and is jointly managed by Isolde Liebherr and Willi Liebherr.

Due to its size, (fully assembled the LHM 420 stands 104 feet high with a maximum radius of 161 feet), the crane was delivered to the port in pieces via a specialized

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heavy lift vessel, and assembled by the ILWU mechanics team after arrival. Local longshore workers with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) underwent extensive training in operating this sophisticated new machine. Today the Port's ILWU local #46 boasts a total of 49 crane operators, including three women.

The addition of the new LHM 420 ensures rapid load outs and discharges of all oceangoing project cargoes. The skilled stevedores, labor force and flexible facilities found at the Port combine to create some of the highest cargo velocity on the U.S. West Coast. The contribution of this heavy-lift mobile harbor crane to the port is critical in serving existing customers such as Chiquita Fresh North America and Del Monte Fresh Produce, two of the Port's *top priority* customers, as well as providing a flexible heavy lift capacity for attracting more project and other heavy cargoes.

Chiquita Brands, headquartered in Charlotte North Carolina is a leading international marketer and distributor of nutritious, high-quality fresh and valued-added food products-from energy-rich bananas, blends of convenient green salads and other fruits to healthy snacking products. The company markets its healthy, fresh products under the Chiquita and Fresh Express premium brands. With annual revenues of more than \$3 billion, Chiquita employs approximately 20,000 people and has operations in nearly 70 countries worldwide. The company remains passionate about upholding its core values, of integrity, respect, opportunity and responsibility.

Ports America, headquartered in New Jersey, is the largest independent marine terminal operator and stevedore company in the United States. The company currently operates in more than 80 locations at 42 ports. Ports America handles all types of cargo, including container, bulk, breakbulk, automotive, project, military and cruise line passengers.

Port of Hueneme CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas said, "The new Mobile Harbor Crane is representative of the strong partnership between Chiquita Brand and Ports America. It also represents a big win for all the Port's customers, our labor force and the Port's potential to attract new business."

The Port of Hueneme plays a vital role in the intermodal logistics supply chain and is critical to the economic health of Ventura County and the Southern California region. The Port supports the transport of over \$7 billion in cargo, generates a \$1 billion economic impact, and provides more than 9,400 direct, indirect, induced and influenced jobs regionally. The Port is a special district governed by 5 elected Commissioners.

Celebrating 75 Years

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