



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Alabama State Port Authority and NAFTA Gulf Bridge
Establish Short Sea Shipping Route between U.S. and Mexico**

September 23, 2010, Mobile Ala. – Beginning in November, the NAFTA Gulf Bridge (NGB) will establish regular and frequent Ro/Ro ferry services between the Ports of Mobile, USA and Veracruz, Mexico. The first vessel is scheduled to begin in mid-November 2010, with a second vessel added to the service in early 2011. Combined, these vessels will furnish three sailings per week carrying up to 225 trailer boxes of 53 feet or a combination of Ro/Ro cargoes.

The service will shift over-the-road freight hauls between Mexico and the U.S. markets, effectively saving trucking companies an estimated 2,500 miles per shipment. "This service will provide shippers in both Mexico and the Southeast and Eastern U.S. more efficient and cost effective freight options while reducing fuel consumption and congestion at the border crossing and U.S. highways," said Jimmy Lyons, director and chief executive for the Alabama State Port Authority. The distance from Mobile to Mexico City is about 1,550 miles compared to 900 miles by sea from Mobile to Veracruz, plus the additional 250 miles between Mexico City and Veracruz. The NAFTA Gulf Bridge service will also reduce transit time from origin to end user.

The Alabama State Port Authority is nearing terms with NAFTA Gulf Bridge, which will call at the Port Authority's Pier 8 Ro/Ro terminal in Mobile. Norton Lilly International, Inc. (NLI) has been selected as the General Agent for the vessels. "This new ferry service is the equivalent to having a congestion free straight interstate highway linking Mobile with Southern and Central Mexico, becoming the perfect alternative to the land border crossings. We are very pleased to work with the Alabama State Port Authority and NLI as we are confident that this new service will have a tremendous economic impact to the region," said Haruo Kano, chief executive of NGB.

The Alabama State Port Authority owns and operates the State of Alabama's deepwater port facilities at the Port of Mobile. The Port of Mobile is currently ranked 9th largest U.S. seaport in total volume. The Port Authority's container, general cargo, Ro/Ro, and bulk facilities have immediate access to two interstate systems, five Class 1 railroads, and nearly 15,000 miles of inland waterway connections.

NAFTA Gulf Bridge is a service owned and controlled by NGE, a company established to develop short sea shipping alternatives in its area of influence. NGE is composed by its shareholders, all of which combined represent several years of experience either in the areas of port operations, transportation and/or maritime fields.

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