

# YOUR MONEY

## Maryland firm to modernize Port

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A Maryland-based engineering firm with a presence on Guam has been awarded a \$400 million contract to help modernize the Port Authority of Guam.

EA Engineering, Science and Technology Inc. on Thursday announced via press release that it was awarded the contract from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration, or MARAD, in late April.

Details of the contract will be discussed next week, according to the firm's local office, EA Science and Technology.

The seven-year contract stipulates EA and its team partners oversee and conduct all work related to the 2008 port modernization program, according to the release.

"The timely completion of this major infrastructure improvement program is necessary to provide modern and efficient transportation access to the island of Guam, and to meet the Department of Defense requirements for the Guam buildup," the release stated.

About 8,000 Marines and 9,000 of their dependents will be shifted from Okinawa to a new base in Guam by 2014. Of the \$206.9 million in improvement projects outlined in the Port's modernization plan, about \$156.9 million in port upgrades are needed to help support the Guam military buildup, according to Pacific Daily News files.

### Optimism

Earlier this year, the Transportation Department denied the port \$50 million in national recovery grant money, which was necessary to obtain a \$49.1 million low-interest loan the Port wanted from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Pacific Daily News files state.

Yesterday, EA's Guam office manager Bob Shambach said this recent contract award by MARAD is "definitely" a good sign that Guam may receive the additional \$50 million in Defense Department



Pacific Daily News file photo

**Upgrades:** A green, refurbished gantry crane at the Port Authority of Guam can be seen in the background of this May 6 photo. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration recently awarded a \$400 million contract to an engineering firm to help modernize the Port.

### WHAT'S NEXT

▲ Both Port officials and EA Science and Technology have confirmed Maritime Administration officials will be on island June 9 to discuss details of the \$400 million contract.

funding it has requested for buildup-related expansion projects at the island's civilian port. President Obama has written to Congress supporting Guam's request, according to Pacific Daily News files.

Port acting General Manager Vivian Leon yesterday said she believed "this indicates a full commitment from the federal government for our Port Modernization Program" and that she remains "hopeful that the president's request will be approved."

### Phases

Neither Shambach nor Leon could provide specifics of the contract awarded to EA.

### AT A GLANCE

▲ EA provides infrastructure engineering and management, environmental compliance and natural resources solutions to a wide range of government and industrial clients.

▲ Headquartered in Hunt Valley, Maryland, EA employs more than 450 professionals through a network of 21 offices across the continental United States, as well as Alaska, Hawaii and Guam. In business for more than 37 years, EA

"It's going to be done in phases and we're going to be working on some of the first phase projects, some of the efficiency projects, projects to make the port more efficient in order to move the cargo," Shambach said.

He said MARAD officials will be on island next week and will be meeting with Port officials and engineers on June 9 to discuss the details.

"Tentative meetings are scheduled for next week to discuss the progress on the design work," Leon

has earned an outstanding reputation for technical expertise, responsive service and judicious use of client resources.

▲ EA is registered to conduct business in Guam as EA Science and Technology, Inc. With a 16-year presence in Guam, EA has executed a variety of challenging projects for federal, state, municipal and commercial clients.

Source: EA Engineering, Science and Technology Inc.

said in an e-mail.

Nimish Desai, vice president and manager of EA's Pacific Operations, said the firm, working closely with MARAD, will leverage its expertise to employ advanced sustainable port design and construction practices to support the Port Authority of Guam.

EA's Guam office has managed a lot of environmental engineering contracts for Andersen Air Force Base and some local commercial clients, according to Shambach.