

Brighton port gets 'green' recognition



FILE: The MT Trans Catalonia sails away from the Port of Brighton, La Brea, on September 28 2020, with the first load of methanol from Caribbean Gas Chemical Ltd. PHOTO COURTESY CGCL

The Port of Brighton has become the first port in T&T—and the Caribbean Community (Caricom)—to achieve EcoPorts PERS (Port Environmental Review System) certification.

In a news release, the La Brea Industrial Development Company Limited (Labidco), confirmed the port received the certification last month.

The release said, “The Port of Brighton now joins a global network of 66 EcoPorts-certified facilities. This certification, awarded by the ECO Sustainable Logistics Chain Foundation (ECOSLC) under the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO), highlights the port’s voluntary adherence to stringent environmental standards that exceed regulatory requirements.

It also underscores the Port of Brighton’s commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.”

Labidco explained, “EcoPorts PERS is the only port-specific environmental

and sustainability standard tailored to the unique operations of ports. It integrates established frameworks such as ISO 14001, while addressing the specific challenges and responsibilities of the maritime industry.

The certification process also involves an independent assessment conducted by Lloyd's Register, LRQA, Netherlands (Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance)."

The certification will remain valid for two years, after which it will be reassessed to ensure continued compliance with evolving laws, regulations, and international climate objectives.

Energy Minister Stuart Young hailed the achievement, saying, "This certification is a milestone, not only for Labidco but for Trinidad and Tobago. By achieving EcoPorts accreditation, Labidco has set a remarkable standard of visionary leadership in integrating environmental responsibility into industrial operations. This achievement paves the way for regional ports to adopt more sustainable practices, ensuring a greener and more resilient future for the energy and maritime sectors."

Chairman of Labidco Dr Joseph Khan said, "The receipt of this certification positions Labidco and the Port of Brighton at the forefront of sustainable port operations in the region, signalling a strong commitment to environmental responsibility and innovation. It also reaffirms the company's role as a leader in sustainable port management.

I commend the team for their outstanding work and vision in setting a new benchmark for the industry."

EcoPorts-certified facilities are often described as "green ports," based on a benchmark in sustainable port development by adopting environmentally friendly practices, minimising ecological impacts, reducing carbon emissions and ensuring compliance with international environmental standards. Green ports, the Labidco release explained, would play a vital role in advancing global sustainability goals and enhancing the port's credibility, as they align their operations with international frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainability Goals and the European Union's Green Agenda.