



**PORT CORPUS CHRISTI®**

**- PRESS RELEASE -**

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

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## Panama Canal Expansion Opens, Promises to be a Game Changer for International Logistics

**Corpus Christi, TX, USA** – The Inauguration of the expanded Panama Canal is expected to usher in a new era of global trade. The expansion project has already received 170 reservations for vessels to traverse the new set of locks including a first LNG vessel. The official inauguration ceremony was held June 26, 2016 with a crowd of more than 25,000 Panamanians, Panama Canal Employees, and heads of state and dignitaries from around the world. Port Corpus Christi Commissioners including Chairman, Charles Zahn; Vice-Chairman, Wayne Squires; and Secretary, Barbara Canales attended the historic event at the new locks.

“More than 100 years ago, the Panama Canal connected two oceans. Today, we connect the present and the future. It is an honor to announce that we did it together: providing this great connection to the world. This is the beginning of a new era,” **said Jorge L. Quijano, Panama Canal Administrator and CEO.**

“As our region continues its current growth and we further position our port as the Energy Port of the Americas, the Panama Canal expansion will allow greater opportunity for global trading opportunities,” **said Charles Zahn, Port Corpus Christi Commission Chair.**

### **About Port Corpus Christi**

*As the primary economic engine of the Coastal Bend, Port Corpus Christi is the 5th largest port in the United States in total tonnage. Our mission; to “Leverage Commerce to Drive Prosperity.” Our vision; “To be the energy port of the America’s.” Strategically located on the western Gulf of Mexico, with a straight, 45’ deep channel, Port Corpus Christi provides quick access to the Gulf and the entire United States inland waterway system. The Port delivers outstanding access to overland transportation with on-site direct connections to three Class-1 railroads and uncongested interstate and state highways. Port Corpus Christi is protected by a state-of-the-art security department and an award-winning Environmental Management System. With outstanding management and operations staff, Port Corpus Christi is clearly “Moving America’s Energy.”*

<http://www.portcorpuschristi.com/>

Port Corpus Christi is a member of **START (South Texas Alliance for Regional Trade)**, a collaborative effort that highlights business opportunities in South Texas in the manufacturing, energy, aerospace, international trade, military, and other sectors and the related strategic support provided by Port San Antonio, Port Corpus Christi, and Port Laredo. <http://www.southtexastrade.com/>

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