LTT Symposium a Total Success!

The Center for Logistics, Trade, and Transportation (LTT) at the University of Southern Mississippi with sponsorship from the US Department of Commerce and the National Center for Freight and Infrastructural Research and Education (CFRE) hosted the Logistics, Trade, and Transportation (LTT) Symposium - February 28-27, 2014 - Deltaport, Mississippi. The event sold out and special accommodations were needed to meet the high level of interest from industry, academic, and public officials.

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Obama’s 2015 Budget Proposes $73 Bln. for Surface Transportation

President Obama’s budget proposal includes $73 billion for surface transportation spending in fiscal year 2015, a 15% increase over this year’s $63 billion surface transportation plan. The Federal Highway Administration plans to use almost two-thirds of this plan, or $42 billion, for surface transportation improvements.

In a March 6 news briefing, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said that freight movement is one of his priorities, and the budget includes $10 billion over four years that spurs highway, rail, and port projects.

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Climb Aboard: Intermodal Pioneering Tomorrow’s Supply Chain

Moving freight, shipping intermodally can significantly reduce supply chain managers in predicting expenses and delays during peak seasons. Capable trucks, driver shortages, fuel spikes, road hazards, and severe weather can all affect expenses during the busiest time of year.

Many major railroads are taking action in securing capacity and peak-season pricing by launching committed capacity programs. These programs allow customers to lock in capacity and pricing for a set period of time when meeting minimum volume commitments. Shippers who forecast volume with reasonable accuracy can save money and clear their books in advance. Railroads are increasingly available to customers. European railroads are an intricate part of the process as they can help shippers who have yet to get reliable and cost-effective service.

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Airbus Helicopters to make AStars in Golden Triangle

Airbus Helicopters Inc. has announced a plan to produce AStars in Columbus, Georgia. The facility will be in charge of Leonardo’s next generation of helicopter, the AStar, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

GEA reports company officials released the following statement: “The plant in Columbus has been selected for the first time to produce AStars. We look forward to the future of the AStar family.”

The production of the AStar is a significant milestone for Airbus Helicopters, which is based in Columbus, Mississippi.

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UPS to Buy 1,000 Propane-Fueled Trucks

UPS Inc. said it is planning to purchase 1,000 propane-fueled delivery trucks and install 50 fueling stations at its facilities, representing a $70 million investment.

The bus will replace diesel and gasoline-powered vehicles in largely rural areas of Louisiana and Oklahoma, and other areas might follow. UPS said in a March 6 statement. The vehicles will start operating in the middle of this year and be fully deployed by early 2015.