



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Port of Houston Grain Elevator Expansion Receives \$25 Million PIDP Grant; Darin Hanson Appointed as New General Manager

Houston, TX – The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) is poised for transformative growth with the award of a **\$25,359,216 grant** from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). This funding will support the **Houston Agricultural Export Improvement and Community Resilience Project**, which includes significant upgrades to Hansen-Metro Elevation’s (HME) grain elevator at PHA Turning Basin. The project will enhance stormwater drainage infrastructure, benefiting both PHA and the surrounding communities. HME is a 50/50 joint venture between Hansen-Mueller Co. and Nautilus International Holding Company.

To lead this critical initiative, HME is proud to announce the appointment of **Darin Hanson** as **General Manager**. Bringing over 30 years of experience in agricultural commodity merchandising, Hanson has held prominent leadership roles, including Vice President of Trading at Hansen-Mueller Co., President of West Plains Co., and Vice President of Grain at Gavilon LLC. His extensive expertise in both domestic and international trade will be invaluable in advancing operational efficiency and supporting the region’s export capabilities.

“The future of U.S. international agricultural trade has great momentum,” said **Tyler Kester**, President of Hansen-Mueller Co. “The Texas Gulf is a fixture in U.S. ag export trade, and this grant will solidify the facility's future and influence for many decades. The HME Joint Venture is intended to bring open trade to the Texas Gulf. The model allows an opportunity for 3rd parties to participate in international trade by utilizing the multi-purpose dry bulk facility through a Put-thru style transaction. Darin Hanson's 30+ years of experience, in conjunction with the award of the PIDP Grant, provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity for the entire industry through the Texas Gulf.”

“This project represents a significant investment in HME’s sustainability and the community’s resiliency,” added **Brian Johnson**, Board Member of HME. “With the upgrading of the grain elevator and the construction of stormwater infrastructure, we are not only boosting the efficiency and capacity of our agricultural exports but also safeguarding the surrounding neighborhoods against the growing challenges of severe weather. Under Darin’s leadership, I am confident we will maximize the impact of this historic grant for generations to come.”

The project will bolster Houston’s position as a premier hub for agricultural exports, enhance supply chain reliability, and improve environmental sustainability by addressing critical stormwater challenges.

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About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Signed in 2021, the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** provides **\$17 billion** to modernize U.S. ports and waterways, ensuring competitiveness and resilience in the face of evolving global demands.



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