



Quick Start in Port Everglades:

Rapid Deployment Imperative for New Start-Up Facility, PET

When 40-acre Port Everglades Terminal, LLC (PET) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, decided they needed a comprehensive software system for the complete management of their new terminal operation, they turned to Tideworks Technology, a leading provider of full-service terminal management and planning software solutions.

As a new start-up facility, PET was managing the engineering, construction, acquisition of operating permits, and much more for the new terminal when they joined with Tideworks for deployment of a terminal operating system. Seamless, rapid deployment was imperative for PET to meet customer commitments and achieve a quick return on their investment. To PET's satisfaction, systems were fully functioning and running smoothly when their first steamship line customer, Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), was received in December 2004, just four months after signing a systems agreement with Tideworks.

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— Richard Rovirosa
Chief Executive Officer
Port Everglades Terminal, LLC

“Thanks to Tideworks, we were able to achieve an extremely rapid implementation,” said Richard G. Rovirosa, CEO, Port Everglades Terminal, LLC. “In spite of the fact that we had numerous other projects occurring simultaneously, facility start-up and systems go-live was very smooth and well-coordinated.”

Comprehensive Package Includes Web Portal and Equipment Monitoring Solutions

PET chose to implement Tideworks' complete terminal operations management system which includes Tideworks' best-of-breed Mainsail Terminal Management System[®], GateVision[™], Spinnaker Planning Management System[®], Spinnaker Traffic Control[™], and Forecast[™].

With Forecast, Tideworks' community web portal, PET now communicates faster and easier with trucking companies, shippers, consignees, brokers and other parties via online tracking of cargo and real-time information. Forecast's online credit card payment option was particularly important to PET, as it would allow terminal customers to pay demurrage and other terminal fees via the Internet from the clients' desktop in numerous remote locations.

“Forecast is a fantastic web-based customer service tool, and for us, one of its greatest benefits has been the ability of our customers to make secure, online payments for terminal charges,” said Javier Miranda, terminal manager, PET. “Not only are the customers thrilled to conduct business in this fashion, but we as the terminal operator have seen the efficiencies in both the billing and Accounts Receivable processes.”

After a few short weeks of using Mainsail, Spinnaker and Forecast, PET launched Spinnaker Traffic Control, Tideworks’ wireless solution for electronically dispatching real-time work instructions to yard equipment. The initialization of Traffic Control at PET coincided with the activation of the terminal’s wireless data network and with the facility’s official inauguration in January 2005.

With mobile handheld devices and vehicle-mounted touch screen display units connected to Traffic Control over the wireless backbone, the field clerks at PET now receive real-time instructions that result in more efficient and accurate responses. The system allows terminal operators to “pool” and “zone” handling equipment, resulting in optimized equipment utilization. Optional deployment with paging systems, differential GPS, RFID systems and other third party technologies further enhances the benefits of Traffic Control.

Getting IT Right, Right Out of the Gate

Although PET was able to start operations within a very short time frame, management wanted to insure that the gate configuration and the critical activities of container receiving and delivery were designed and implemented correctly for the long-term operation of the facility. That is why PET chose to deploy Tideworks’ advanced gate operating system, GateVision™, and build out a new eight-lane gate facility.



Through a combination of hardware (CCTV cameras, kiosks, displays, etc.) and software, GateVision seamlessly integrates all key components of the gate transaction into a single, intuitive user interface. Additionally, the system allows terminal operators to remove clerks from the noisy and potentially dangerous environment of the gate lanes and place them in a more comfortable and safe, office environment (typically referred to as the “kitchen”).

Construction of the PET gate complex was finalized in late 2005, and the first trucks rolled through the lanes of the first GateVision implementation in South Florida on December 12 at 7:00 a.m. Since that date, truck transaction time has been reduced dramatically and continues to improve, while accuracy in truck processing has increased significantly.

“GateVision has allowed us to improve the level of service to our truckers by leaps and bounds, said Miranda. “At the same time, we’ve been able to reduce costly errors and provide a safer working environment for our clerks.”

Port Achieves Record Results, Growth

In December 2005, Port Everglades reported it had surpassed the 5-million-ton historic record in containerized cargo, and that the port had record growth of 22.5 percent in fiscal year 2005. Port Everglades’ officials attributed the record breaking increase in containerized cargo, in part, to its two new terminal operators – PET and Florida International Terminals (F.I.T.)

“We’re very proud of the results we’ve seen at PET,” said Michael Schwank, president, Tideworks Technology. “We look forward to supporting this new terminal as they continue to grow and expand their operations.”

About Tideworks Technology

Tideworks is a leading provider of cost-effective, reliable software solutions for growing terminal operations and shipping lines worldwide. The company helps more than 50,000 users and nearly 90 facilities run their operations more efficiently and profitably. From optimized equipment utilization to faster turn times, Tideworks works at every step of terminal operations to maximize productivity and customer service. For more information about Tideworks Technology, visit www.tideworks.com/.

About Port Everglades Terminal, LLC

Port Everglades Terminal, LLC (PET) provides terminal services with proven operational management systems, advanced terminal equipment, and skilled personnel. PET’s goal is to ensure that its customers are able to provide enhanced offerings as a result of the value added services PET is able to furnish them through its advanced operating processes and technology. The technology implemented at PET is an essential tool in the logistics chain, offering a broad range of services designed to move cargo quickly and efficiently through South Florida. Founded in 2004, PET is quickly becoming the most advanced and most efficient terminal in the region.

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