



Portall Infosystems welcomed as IPCSA's newest member

The International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA) has announced a further expansion of its global membership, welcoming Mumbai-based Portall Infosystems as its newest member.

Part of India's 100-year-old logistics industry group J M BAXI , Portall is the second Indian company to join IPCSA. The company was set up in 2017 to provide a Port Community System for users of its container terminals, several inland container depots, and other related services, and it has ambitious plans for expansion.

However, while Portall is a relative newcomer to the PCS sector, the company is already in talks with various ports which are likely to join the privately owned PCS platform, and it is also looking at expansion beyond India's borders.

"India has a national PCS but we felt the need to create a proprietary platform for improving the integration of our operations within our community for our own operations," said Abhijit Desai, Advisor to Portall Infosystems. "As a result, our community is more involved in our operations, including importers/exporters, brokers, truckers and others. They all know exactly what is happening – when, where and at what status is their shipment.

He added: "Today we are looking at India and the drive to become more organised and efficient, and to move towards paperless transactions. But we are also looking at neighbouring countries and also at the wider region and at the trade blocs of which India is a member. Portall plans to expand its services on a global platform."

Membership of IPCSA is important for Portall, he said. "We want to upgrade our knowledge on how PCSs work, dependent on their type and reach. We want to find out more about the kind of technologies being implemented around the world. We

believe we can take this knowledge around the South East Asia region and into Africa, where there is a growing demand to implement national PCSs.

Portall will be a proactive member of IPCSA, Abhijit Desai added, contributing to its working groups and sharing the group's logistics knowledge and long-term vision with other members. "This exchange of experience and knowledge could lead to partnerships and complementary solutions on projects in the future."

Richard Morton, secretary general of IPCSA, said: "We are delighted to welcome our second member from India. Portall has a five-year roadmap to evolve into a fully fledged PCS and will benefit from the experience and knowledge of our members from around the world. Meanwhile, IPCSA members look forward to learning more from Portall's perspective on the marketplace.

"IPCSA continues to expand its influence geographically and is representing its members at the highest levels, including through our consultative status at the International Maritime Organization and Special Consultative Status at UN ECOSOC."

Notes to Editors:

IPCSA was originally founded as the European Port Community Systems Association in 2011, by six European-based PCS operators. It was relaunched in 2014 as an international association, reflecting its growing membership outside Europe .

Today, IPCSA's members operate across the world, exchanging electronic information at more than 100 sea and air ports, rail and inland waterways, and border crossing points. This equates to more than 350 million TEU and 7 billion tonnes of world trade a year, a reach of over 1 million users, and exchanging over 20 billion messages per annum.

IPCSA's membership provides representation in each of the five UN Regional Commission regions. This geographical reach enables it to address the needs of members on a regional as well as international basis.

IPCSA has consultative status at the International Maritime Organization and Special Consultative Status at UN ECOSOC, both providing an important platform for representing the needs of its members and its members' users at the highest level. IPCSA also takes part in international standards meetings including WCO, ISO, UN/CEFACT and IATA. For further information on this Press Release or on IPCSA, please contact Richard Morton, Secretary General of IPCSA.

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