



The first edition of Port Performance Summit Brasil 2024 consolidates the event's value, with educational content focused on technical discussions for the advancement of innovation and technology in the port industry

Event brings together ports, port authorities, terminal operators, consultants, specialized companies and technology solution providers to present the main applications for innovation, technology, automation and digitalization within port operations

The first edition of **Port Performance Summit Brasil 2024**, held on October 2-3 in Sao Paulo, Brazil counted on the presence of 170 industry professionals, representing 40 ports, terminal operators, and port authorities, reinforcing the importance of innovation and advanced technologies for port operations in Brazil. The event highlighted the critical role of new technology adoption and strategic planning based on data and intelligence, with a constant search for more agile, resilient and efficient operations.

With 16 hours of educational content, 27 speaking sessions, and the participation of over 40 speakers and moderators, the “content-first” event established itself as strategic meeting point for port industry executives in Brazil. The dynamic and practical discussions regarding advanced technologies and their applications within the port ecosystem focused on best practices in achieving improvements in productivity, efficiency, safety, sustainability and competitiveness. According to Michael Fine, CEO of DDLM and the creator of the event, 85% of the attendees from the ports and terminals hold strategic positions within their companies and are directly involved in new purchase decisions.

“Our mission with Port Performance Summit Brasil is to provide an effective platform of knowledge exchange, networking, new business opportunities and relationship-building with the objective of highlighting the most important applications for innovation, technology, automation, and digitalization for ports and terminals. We work hard to build a conference program that is focused on cases, insights, market intelligence and deep, high value-added discussions,” emphasized Fine.

During the two days of the event, the conference program was initiated with keynote addresses on highly strategic and relevant topics. Veteran port industry specialist, Casemiro Tércio Carvalho, CEO of 4 Infra, opened the program on the event's first day with a presentation regarding competition and port competitiveness. On the second day, Alexandre Euzebio from the CENEP Santos Foundation spoke on advanced strategies for building more resilience into port operations.

Among the highlights of the event, Admiral Murillo Barbosa, President-Director of ATP (Brazilian Association of Private Port Terminals) reinforced the focus in innovation and sustainability, central themes within the event's discussions. He further emphasized the importance of sharing experiences and cooperation among the participants and that “Innovation is in the DNA of ATP.” During his presentation, Barbosa launched *Biblioport*, a new digital tool that allows the search of over 300 articles, papers, etc. regarding shipping, navigation, cargo transportation and other relevant topics for the port industry.

Technology should be implemented within careful planning, was a message presented by Angelino Caputo, Executive Director of ABTRA (Brazilian Association of Terminals and Customs and Storage Facilities). Caputo defended a balanced and practical approach to innovation. “Technology needs to be applied with a good dose of realism and should bring tangible benefits, such as financial gains, improvements in operational safety, and greater energy efficiency,” he affirmed. Caputo continued by highlighting examples of port automation cases presented by leading terminal operators in Brazil.

Another key discussion during the event’s two days was the interactive panel regarding the implementation in Brazil of a Port Community System (PCS) and need for collaboration among the diverse agents within the port industry. This panel featured leading experts on the subject, Angelino Caputo (ABTRA), Roberto Paveck (economist and veteran port industry manager) and Tetsu Koike (Ministry of Ports and Airports), with the moderating role conducted by Milena Castro (ABTRA). During the discussion, Caputo emphasized that technological innovation is, by nature, collaborative, and that the knowledge sharing among competing companies is essential so that the best solutions can be implemented effectively.

Claudia Borges, Executive Director of ABTP (Brazilian Association of Port Terminals), explained that innovation is a “path of no return”, reinforcing that technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and automation are already part of the port industry’s reality. She also stated that innovation goes beyond technology, having a tremendous impact directly on human capital management and processes, which can result in significant improvements in productivity for ports and terminals.

“Modernization is a strong ally in the further development of the port industry’s efficiency. We have seen throughout the event’s two days outstanding examples, including cases from our member companies, that have shown that innovation goes beyond investments in new technologies. Innovation also translates into effective change in processes, management strategies and sustainability, among other aspects that have had a tremendous impact on the industry’s growth,” highlighted Borges.

In another very prominent speaking session, Carlos Tiego Arruda from the Ministry of Ports and Airports presented the results achieved until this point in the ports and terminal operators that have implemented the “Porto Sem Papel” (Port Without Paper) program, with highlights also touching on the recent advances in the adoption of this important system within port operations throughout Brazil.

Significant Opportunities with Port Automation and Autonomous Systems

The discussion panel curated by ABRATEC (Brazilian Association of Container Terminals) and moderated by their President, Caio Morel, “Automation in Container Terminals” highlighted the participation of leading port professionals from Brazil’s three largest container terminals, such as Jardel Fischer (Portonave), Fabiana Alencar (BTP), and Marcelo Patrício (Santos Brasil). Throughout the interactive session, various examples were presented from each terminal that evidenced the improvements in safety, productivity and efficiency in the daily operations at these high-performing operations. The need to train and requalify the existing workforce was a constant theme throughout the panel discussion, as all participants reinforced the importance of helping the workforce evolve together with the implementation of these advanced technologies.

The increasing demand of receiving the large container ships requires not only more efficiency, but also a solid port infrastructure. This includes modern berths, equipment, technologies and quality-assured processes within the piers. Automation, while very promising, demands close attention to resiliency of systems, cybersecurity and regulatory issues.

The future of port automation indicates an increase in digitalization and automatization of processes, with a strong emphasis on advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and predictive

analysis applied to effective maintenance strategies. Terminal operators and ports are preparing themselves to handle the new generation of cargo ships in the most efficient manner, with the most modern equipment and infrastructure.

Success Stories

The event's conference program presented several success stories from ports and terminals all over Brazil, where leading technologies had been applied to improve port operations on many fronts. Port industry leaders presented cases of automation, AI, TOS (Terminal Operating System), integrated logistics systems, high-technology equipment installation, digital twin, AGVs, among other technologies, during the two-day event. The discussions were focused on the challenges faced, the things that went well, the adjustments made and the key learning points throughout the process.

Digital transformation was another recurring theme throughout the program of educational content, with several speaking sessions and discussion panels presenting real-life cases regarding software implementation and the adoption of technologies, such as IoT and AI with the goal of optimizing port operations processes, improving efficiency and supporting effective decision-making.

The application of an innovative management model was presented by Ports of Parana, as an example of how innovative tools and effective management of KPIs can help increase efficiency and competitiveness.

During an international speaking session, Jon Nass, CEO of the Mississippi Port Authority in Gulfport (USA), spoke about the port's innovative approach to strategic planning and how the port authority is leveraging the Blue Economy and non-traditional operations to drive growth for the port.

Another highlight of the event was the dynamic discussion regarding AGVs (Automated Guided Vehicles) and their role within Brazilian port and terminal operations in the near future. Within the panel, specialists Patrick Fernandes da Costa (SENAI-SP) and Andre Kopperschmidt (Meinhardt) exchanged ideas and perspectives on the next steps and key considerations for the implementation of AGV projects within the Brazilian reality. In addition, they presented visions on managing C-level expectations, ROI, social inclusion and gains in productivity within the short and medium term. Furthermore, they discussed the lessons learned, insights and real-life results of projects that they have already seen come to fruition.

The event also explored the entire life cycle of a port automation project, from the project's conception to its operation. The choice of technologies and technology solution providers, as well as the preparation of the autonomous system from the beginning until the implementation were highlighted throughout the discussion.

"With a full program of discussion panels, keynote addresses, cases and speaking sessions, Port Performance Summit Brasil 2024 offered a strategic moment of knowledge exchange, networking, learning and inspiration among the leading executives within the Brazilian port industry," explained Fine. "The innovated cases presented and the discussions regarding advanced technologies and digital transformation promise to contribute to even more effective strategic planning and decision-making within the country's port industry," concluded.

The event's next edition will be held on October 1-2, 2025 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Service:**Port Performance Summit Brasil 2024****Date:** October 2-3**Hours:** 8:00am – 6:00pm**Venue:** AMCHAM Business Center - Rua da Paz, 1431 - São Paulo, SP**More Information:** www.portperformancesummit.com.br**Official Sponsors:**

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DDLM is a Sao Paulo-based company specializing in conferences, trade shows and corporate events, whose team has more than 40 years of experience in the industry. As an established company within the Brazilian event marketplace, it firmly believes in the power of in-person events to contribute to the growth and development of any industry.

Press Contact:

Valeria Bursztein

Coletivo da Comunicação

valeria@coletivodacomunicacao.com.br

+55 11 99104.2031