

Friday, April 10, 2009 | Modified: Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 5:26am EDT

## **Port seeks project bids worth \$18M**

Work is part of preparation for larger cruise ships  
Orlando Business Journal - by [Chris Kauffmann](#)

Port Canaveral has \$18.5 million worth of construction projects up for bid, which companies can learn more about April 24 during the port's second annual reverse trade show.

A reverse trade show is when vendors meet with department heads and hear what the port needs. The vendors also will be entered in the port's database as potential suppliers for future needs.

Last year's show attracted 300 vendors, and port officials expect more this year because of the recession. "Across the board, we're getting three or four times the number of bidders than we had in the past, even for small projects," said Jon Brazee, the port's deputy executive director.

The projects are part of more than \$43 million in construction Port Canaveral is doing in preparation for the arrival of the next generation of huge cruise ships.

The first part of the work already is under way and must be done by May 4, when Royal Caribbean's 1,112-foot-long Freedom of the Seas will take up residence at Terminal 10, where it will co-

berth with the 880-foot Monarch of the Seas. The new 998-foot Carnival Dream will make the terminal its permanent home in December.

Part of that work to prepare for the arrivals includes extending the berth by 90 feet, enlarging the mooring platform and expanding the ship basin by cutting off and dredging 14 acres of land adjacent to the entrance of the basin, a massive \$7.8 million endeavor expected to be finished this week.

In addition, several upcoming projects worth a combined \$18.5 million will be bid out during the next couple of months as the port readies for the arrival of larger new Disney cruise ships in 2011 and 2012. That work, by contract, must be completed by October 2010.

“It’s complicated work, but it’s our job to make it look easy,” said port Chief Executive Officer J. Stanley Payne. “There needs to be ease of flow for passengers.”

The biggest project still to be bid is a \$13.5 million expansion of Terminal 8 to handle the increase in passengers when the bigger cruise ships come in. The new ships carry about 4,000 passengers, compared with the 2,500-2,800-passenger capacity of existing ships.

This project includes doubling baggage haul space, an increase in the check-in space and an overhead walkway from the terminal back to a new, 1,000-space parking garage that will be built where a five-lane road now separates the parking lot and the terminal. The project goes out for bid sometime next month and will be awarded in June or July.

Other projects going out for bid this summer include:

- A roughly \$3 million automated gangway from the terminal to the ship.
- An estimated \$2 million expanded passenger drop-off area -for -Terminal 10.

Most of the contracts thus far have gone to companies from South Florida, Tampa or California, but Hardin Construction Co. in Orlando recently won the \$7.5 million design/build contract for the parking garage. “It may not be a \$100 million or \$200 million project, but we aggressively went after it because it meets one of our sweet spots,” said Hardin Vice President Charlie Dorr.

Baker Barrios Architects in Orlando will do the design work on that project, on which construction will start in June.