

St. Lucie County a finalist for inland distribution center

By Eric Pfahler

Originally published 05:08 p.m., October 6, 2009

Updated 05:08 p.m., October 6, 2009

ST. LUCIE COUNTY — The Treasure Coast Intermodal Campus is one of four companies that are finalists to become an inland distribution center for the Port of Palm Beach District.

The St. Lucie County location, which would house a center including a freight yard that could have 20,000 jobs, received public support from Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce officials. The campus is the only finalist on the Treasure Coast and would be on a 7,000-acre piece of land that fronts Glades Cutoff Road and the rail line in western St. Lucie County. Two companies dropped out of consideration.

The selection is expected to be made on Oct. 21 after presentations are made on Oct. 15 to the Port of Palm Beach District.

The winner could bring millions of dollars in new state and local tax revenue to its area, port officials said.

Current distribution centers are in Georgia, Virginia and Texas.

Goods would be taken by rail or truck to the location from the Port of Miami, Port Everglades or Port of Palm Beach, and would make it easier for stores to reduce transportation costs.

The other three finalists include Florida Crystals Corporation, Hillard Brothers of Florida/US Sugar Corporation and Weekly Brothers Industrial Park.

The project must be completed before the opening of the expanded Panama Canal, which is slated for 2014. Once the canal is expanded, more high-volume container vessels will have direct access to the eastern United States, according to the district.



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