

# Port Fourchon

## Case study



▲ Port Fourchon trusts Christie Phoenix to help monitor oil and gas service activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

## Port Fourchon: the oil and gas hub of the U.S. partners with Christie

Located on Louisiana's southernmost point, Port Fourchon services over 90% of the domestic deepwater oil and gas exploration, drilling and production activities in the Gulf of Mexico. This accounts for over \$3.4 billion in direct economic impacts in 2013 in the state of Louisiana alone. "We service over 400 vessels that come in and out of Port Fourchon every day," April Danos, Director of Information Technology, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, explains. "We have about 4,500 vehicles coming in and out of our port for crew changes on any given Wednesday."

The Greater Lafourche Port Commission operates Port Fourchon: the intermodal hub for the U.S. oil and gas industry. When the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Port Fourchon was ready for design, the team — along with their

partners at Interstate Electronic Systems — turned to Christie® for help.

"The Christie Phoenix® system allows us to view multiple things at one time, which really helps us make the proper decision during an emergency," explains Chett Chiasson, Executive Director, Greater Lafourche Port Commission. "We have all the information we need right at our fingertips, in real-time, to make the best decision possible."

"The video wall is a great tool, allowing us to see the complete operating picture of any threats facing the port, in real time. It will be vital to our response to future incidents in the port and in the Gulf."

**Chett Chiasson,**  
Executive Director, Greater Lafourche Port Commission

**Customer:**  
Greater Lafourche Port Commission

**Location:**  
Port Fourchon, Louisiana

**Industry/Market:**  
Oil and gas

**Partner:**  
Interstate Electronic Systems

**Requirements:**

- Scalable
- Easy to use
- Affordable

**Summary:**  
As the intermodal hub for the U.S. oil and gas industry, the team at Port Fourchon needed monitoring solutions they could trust to help ensure the safety and security of Louisiana's busiest deepwater oil and gas service port. They chose Christie Phoenix.

**Product:**  
Christie Phoenix

**Results:**  
The Christie Phoenix system provides the team at Port Fourchon with greater situational awareness, and enhanced incident response and decision-making capabilities. Port personnel, industry clients and emergency management officials can collaborate and share information and view a common operating stream, which will allow them to respond quickly and effectively to future incidents.

Having completed several command and control applications in the past, Managing Partner at Interstate Electronic Systems, Lloyd Francioni, saw an opportunity for Christie solutions to help take Port Fourchon to the next level of monitoring and surveillance. Francioni says, “[Christie Phoenix] presented a very good value to the customer, a lot of performance — and architecturally, I think it’s ahead of a lot of the competitors’ products. It’s an excellent value, it’s somewhat unique in what it does and the way it does it, and for that reason, I’d highly recommend it.”

The 4x2 video wall in the EOC is managed entirely by the Christie Phoenix system. It allows them to gather real-time information from various inputs and display it for all team members to see, giving them immediate access to the information they need to make accurate decisions in emergency situations. Harbor Police Compliance Coordinator for the Port Fourchon Harbor Police Department, Daniel Dardar Jr., says, “It gives us all of our resources in one picture — kind of like a puzzle that we can put together. It doesn’t make a lot of sense when it’s all separated, but when you bring it together you literally see the bigger picture. It gives us a more accurate understanding of exactly what the incident is and how best to handle it.”

The Christie Phoenix system also allows them to send information to two separate breakout rooms, which is vital in situations where a sub-event occurs. Danos explains, “For example, if an incident comes up and we need the Coast Guard to break out into a separate area, we can take something that’s displayed on the main video wall and display it in a breakout room. This allows the Coast Guard to come up with a game



▲ Port Fourchon services over 90% of all the deepwater activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

plan amongst themselves and then display that back up on the main video wall for the entire incident command group to go over.”

Port Fourchon has an award-winning, port-wide maritime domain awareness system known as GLPC-C4 (Greater Lafourche Port Commission Command, Control, Communication and Collaboration). It integrates things such as Automated Information System (AIS), radar, law enforcement data and cameras, and is fed directly to the EOC video wall enabling real-time collaboration. Danos adds, “We have all the information we need, and it allows us do things like enlarge images, scale them down and move data onto different screens. The flexibility that the Christie Phoenix system provided us with is very beneficial to our operations.” She goes on to say, “Christie Phoenix allows us to bring all of the different data systems and sources into one common operating picture, for greater situational awareness of Port Fourchon.”



▲ Port Fourchon’s video wall content is managed entirely by the Christie Phoenix system.

Chiasson sums it up best, “The Christie Phoenix system allows us to monitor port activities within a collaborative environment, and with as much data as possible to inform our decisions. Christie Phoenix gives us what we need to be able to easily and effectively respond to any incident that affects Port Fourchon.”

### Contact Christie

Contact us today to find out how your organization can benefit from Christie solutions.

Photo credits: Greater Lafourche Port Commission

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