

Made and Moved in America: Cranes and U.S. Port Equipment

Port Equipment Reshoring Initiative

The Value of America's Ports and The Current Landscape

Every day, U.S. ports move millions of tons of goods and resources to U.S. consumers and vital markets around the world. Seaports and maritime partners sustain over 31 million American jobs and generate \$5.4 trillion in economic activity annually.

As ports modernize and increase capacity to meet the demands of a global economy, they must retain the ability to procure and operate the most modern and efficient equipment. The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provided a historic \$2.5 billion over the next five years for port improvement grants, but the bill also included a requirement that grant funding be used only for products manufactured in the U.S. – a stipulation that severely limits ports' ability to purchase cargo moving equipment.

Challenges in Funding Port Infrastructure

Ports rely on highly specialized equipment to move cargo from ship to shore and around port facilities for transport by rail and truck. For example, cranes are among the largest, most important, and most expensive pieces of equipment used at ports. Unfortunately, the cranes required by America's largest ports are manufactured overseas, with the most dominant manufacturers operating out of China, Japan, Austria, Finland, and Germany. With legislative caveats preventing federal funding for foreign-manufactured equipment and no options to manufacture the equipment domestically, ports face an imminent crisis.



The equipment required by America's largest ports are currently only manufactured overseas in countries like China, Japan, Austria, Finland and Germany. **AAPA is determined to help American companies take their place as ascendant global competitors in manufacturing:**

- Overhead/hammerhead cranes
- Ship-to-shore cranes
- Straddle carriers
- Drayage trucks
- Overhead traveling cranes
- Rubber tire gantry cranes
- Cantilevered rail-mounted gantry cranes
- Rail-mounted gantry cranes
- Automatic stacking cranes
- Mobile harbor cranes
- Hydraulic boat lifts
- Bulk Material Ship Loaders/Unloaders
- Passenger Bridges
- Gangway systems

Demand for Crane Infrastructure

In 2022, AAPA surveyed its members to gauge the scope of anticipated crane purchases. Members indicated rapidly growing demand, with plans to purchase 224 cranes over the next five years, including 53 ship-to-shore cranes, 95 gantry cranes, 23 mobile harbor cranes, and 53 other types – a great sign for trade, economy, and resilient ports, and highly indicative of trends toward reshoring.



An Incentive for Progress At Home

To reduce dependence on foreign suppliers and take advantage of federal grant funding, AAPA is working with policymakers and industry leaders to incent the manufacture and purchase of American-made cranes for U.S. ports. Here's how we get there:

The Roadmap to American-made Infrastructure



On behalf of the U.S. maritime industry, AAPA has filed a 2-year blanket waiver request that would allow ports to spend federal grant dollars on port equipment. The waiver period would allow time to strengthen the U.S. manufacturing base without depriving ports of the most modern, green and efficient crane technology.



In partnership with the U.S. Maritime Administration, AAPA will conduct an in-depth survey and **forecast of domestic port equipment requirements**.



Based on the new survey data, AAPA will **identify U.S. manufacturers** interested in developing new or expanded product lines.



AAPA will explore pooled procurement, a practice allowing the port industry to place a single, unified equipment order – providing a **powerful financial incentive to a U.S. firm considering the manufacture of crane equipment**.



AAPA will work with Congress and the Administration to **provide American manufacturers with favorable conditions** to further incentivize crane production.

Investing in U.S. port infrastructure and its manufacturing base is vital to grow and maintain an efficient supply chain, spur job creation, and keep products abundant and affordable for U.S. consumers and people around the world.

Support the Made and Moved in America: Cranes and U.S. Port Equipment initiative today. For more information, contact:

Derek Miller · 607-321-9765 · dmiller@aapa-ports.org

AAPA
ESSENTIAL. RESILIENT. UNITED.
SEAPORTS DELIVER



@seaportsdeliverprosperity



@PortsUnited



www.aapa-ports.org