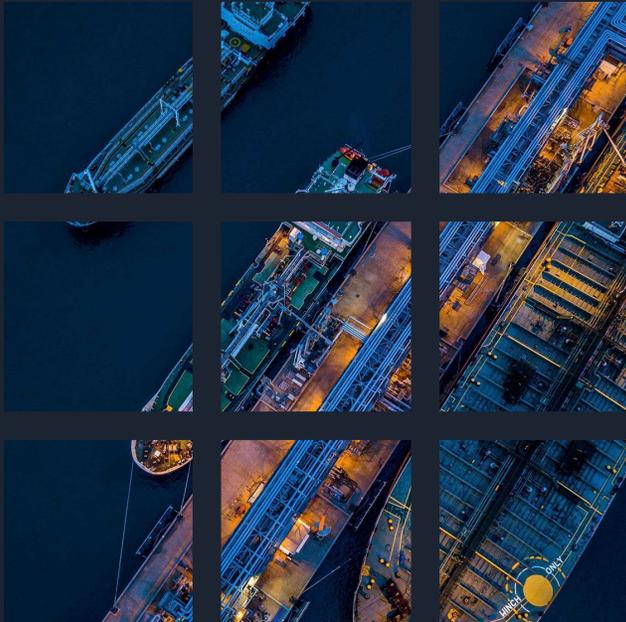




Position Brief

Louisiana Gateway Port
Executive Director

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Contact Information

Linda Kearschner
Principal
+1 202 804 6679
linda.kearschner@odgers.com

Kelly Crittenden
Project Coordinator
+1 202 899 3982
kelly.crittenden@odgers.com

Odgers
1100 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036



The Opportunity

Louisiana Gateway Port (LGP) sits at a transformative moment in its evolution. Located at the mouth of the Mississippi River—one of the world’s most strategically important maritime corridors—the Port is uniquely positioned to serve as a premier gateway connecting global shipping lanes with the economic engine of the U.S. heartland.

The Board of Commissioners seeks an accomplished and visionary **Executive Director** to lead Louisiana Gateway Port through its next phase of growth. This leader will guide the Port’s long-range strategy, accelerate commercial development, and strengthen its market position as a major hub for global trade, logistics, and industrial investment along the Gulf Coast.

The Executive Director will inherit an organization with strong fundamentals and significant momentum. The Port’s geographic advantages—including deepwater access, proximity to international shipping lanes, multimodal connectivity, and the absence of air draft restrictions—enable it to accommodate the world’s largest vessels while facilitating efficient cargo movement across global supply chains.

This role represents a rare opportunity to lead one of the nation’s most strategically positioned port authorities at a time of increasing global trade demand, supply chain transformation, and infrastructure investment. The successful candidate will work closely with the Board, public officials, industry partners, and regional stakeholders to realize the Port’s growth potential while driving operational excellence and responsible stewardship.

ABOUT LOUISIANA GATEWAY PORT

Louisiana Gateway Port is a public port authority serving the lower Mississippi River and the global maritime marketplace. Originally established in 1954 as the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, the organization rebranded as Louisiana Gateway Port in 2025 to reflect its expanding role as a gateway between global trade and the U.S. interior. The Port’s jurisdiction spans approximately 81 miles along the Mississippi River, making it one of the largest port districts in the United States. This footprint provides direct access to global shipping lanes while connecting to the inland river system that links more than 30 states and a vast network of logistics hubs.

Louisiana Gateway Port functions as a powerful engine of economic development for Plaquemines Parish, the State of Louisiana, and the broader Gulf Coast region. Through partnerships with private terminal operators, industrial developers, and logistics providers, the Port facilitates the movement of energy products, agricultural commodities, bulk materials, project cargo, and general freight while supporting thousands of jobs across maritime and logistics sectors.

A centerpiece of the Port’s long-term growth strategy is the Louisiana Gateway Container Terminal being developed in partnership with APM Terminals. The project is expected to deliver world-class



container handling capabilities with on-dock rail and capacity for ultra-large container vessels, positioning Louisiana Gateway Port to capture future containerized trade growth along the Gulf Coast.

In addition to its maritime operations, the Port also supports multimodal logistics connectivity through rail, highway, and barge networks, providing seamless access to domestic markets throughout the Mississippi River corridor and beyond.

Louisiana Gateway Port also plays a role in supporting regional transportation connectivity through the Plaquemines Parish ferry system. The ferry service provides essential crossings of the Mississippi River for residents, workers, and commercial traffic within the Port's jurisdiction, linking communities on the east and west banks and facilitating access to port facilities, industrial sites, and regional employment centers. The service is an important component of the parish's transportation infrastructure and contributes to the efficient movement of people and goods throughout the port district.

Governance of Louisiana Gateway Port is provided by a Board of Commissioners comprised of members of the Plaquemines Parish Council, who oversee strategic policy and appoint the Executive Director to lead the organization's professional staff.

With a growing portfolio of infrastructure projects, public-private partnerships, and industrial development opportunities, Louisiana Gateway Port is poised for sustained expansion as a critical link in the nation's maritime and logistics ecosystem.

For more information visit: <https://www.louisianagatewayport.com/>

LOCATION

Louisiana Gateway Port is located in Plaquemines Parish just south of the City of New Orleans along the lower Mississippi River. The region combines the economic vitality of one of the nation's most important maritime corridors with the cultural vibrancy of Greater New Orleans. The broader region is also home to leading universities, research institutions, and maritime organizations that support innovation and workforce development across the Gulf Coast.

For executives and their families, the area offers an exceptional quality of life. Greater New Orleans is internationally recognized for its unique culture, cuisine, music, and architecture. Residents enjoy a dynamic urban environment combined with access to coastal recreation, historic communities, and the natural beauty of the Gulf region.

Together, Plaquemines Parish and the Greater New Orleans region provide a compelling environment where global commerce, economic opportunity, and an unparalleled cultural heritage intersect.



The Position

The Executive Director serves as the chief executive officer of Louisiana Gateway Port and reports directly to the Board of Commissioners. The Executive Director is responsible for the overall leadership, strategic direction, and performance of the organization, including operational oversight, infrastructure development, financial stewardship, and stakeholder engagement.

The role requires a dynamic leader capable of navigating the intersection of public governance and private-sector commerce. The Executive Director will lead the organization through a period of significant opportunity, advancing the Port's long-term vision while ensuring efficient operations, sound financial management, and strong relationships with key stakeholders.

The Executive Director will oversee senior leadership across areas including operations, finance, engineering, administration, government affairs, and business development. The position requires close collaboration with federal and state agencies, maritime and logistics partners, industry associations, and community stakeholders.

Above all, the Executive Director will champion the Port's mission to promote economic development, expand global trade opportunities, and strengthen Louisiana's role as a leading gateway for international commerce.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Strategic Leadership and Vision

- Lead the execution and ongoing refinement of Louisiana Gateway Port's Master Plan, translating long-term strategic priorities into actionable initiatives that drive growth, competitiveness, and regional economic impact.
- Position the Port as a premier Gulf Coast gateway for global trade, logistics, energy exports, and industrial development, strengthening its role within national and international supply chains.
- Identify and pursue emerging opportunities in containerized trade, energy and LNG exports, logistics services, and industrial investment that expand the Port's cargo base and economic footprint.

Operational and Organizational Leadership

- Provide executive leadership and overall management of the Port's operations, administration, and professional staff.
- Ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible port operations across the district while maintaining the highest standards of regulatory compliance and operational reliability.
- Foster a high-performance organizational culture grounded in operational excellence, accountability, collaboration, and continuous improvement.



Infrastructure and Capital Development

- Oversee implementation of major capital infrastructure initiatives, including terminal development, multi-modal connectivity, and port expansion projects.
- Partner with engineering teams, developers, and project stakeholders to ensure infrastructure projects are delivered efficiently, on schedule, and within budget.
- Pursue and secure federal, state, and private funding opportunities to support long-term infrastructure investment.

Commercial Development and Growth

- Drive strategic business development initiatives to attract new cargo volumes, logistics operators, industrial tenants, and private investment.
- Cultivate strong relationships with shipping lines, terminal operators, logistics providers, and industrial developers.
- Negotiate and structure commercial agreements, leases, and public-private partnerships that enhance the Port's competitive position and long-term revenue growth.

Financial Stewardship

- Ensure disciplined financial management of the Port's operations, capital programs, and long-term development initiatives.
- Oversee annual budgeting, revenue generation, and long-range financial planning aligned with the Port's strategic priorities
- Identify and implement innovative financing mechanisms—including grants, bonds, and public-private partnerships—to support infrastructure investment.

Government and Stakeholder Engagement

- Serve as the principal liaison between the Port and federal, state, and local government officials.
- Maintain strong, productive relationships with elected officials, industry partners, community leaders, and economic development organizations
- Represent Louisiana Gateway Port in national and international maritime, logistics, and trade forums to strengthen the Port's visibility and influence.

Board Relations and Governance

- Maintain a transparent and collaborative relationship with the Board of Commissioners, providing strategic guidance and regular updates on Port operations and development initiatives.
- Implement Board policies and ensure alignment between governance priorities, strategic objectives, and operational execution.
- Maintain a “no surprises” philosophy in keeping the Board informed of major issues and opportunities.



The Candidate

Louisiana Gateway Port seeks a forward-thinking, commercially minded leader capable of guiding a complex public port authority in a rapidly evolving maritime and logistics environment. The ideal candidate will bring strategic vision, operational leadership, financial acumen, and the political awareness required to navigate a dynamic public-sector landscape. This executive must effectively balance public stewardship with private-sector commercial development while building trust among a broad range of stakeholders. An accomplished communicator and relationship builder, the successful candidate will inspire confidence among the Board, staff, industry partners, and the broader maritime community.

COMPETENCIES & AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Strategic and Visionary Leadership

- Demonstrates the ability to articulate and execute a clear long-term vision for organizational growth, infrastructure development, and economic impact.

Commercial and Market Orientation

- Possesses a strong understanding of global trade dynamics, logistics networks, and port economics, with the ability to identify and pursue new commercial opportunities.

Stakeholder and Government Relations

- Skilled at navigating complex political and regulatory environments and building productive relationships with public officials, industry leaders, and community stakeholders.

Operational and Financial Acumen

- Experienced in managing complex infrastructure operations, capital programs, and financial performance in a large-scale transportation or logistics environment.

Leadership and Organizational Development

- An inclusive and collaborative leader who builds strong teams, develops talent, and fosters a culture of accountability and continuous improvement.

Communication and Influence

- An effective communicator who can represent the Port credibly with internal and external audiences, including policymakers, industry partners, and the public.



ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

- A minimum of 10 years of senior executive leadership experience in a port authority, maritime, logistics, transportation, infrastructure, or related environment.
- Demonstrated experience leading complex organizations with broad operational, financial, and strategic responsibilities.
- Proven success driving business development, cargo growth, and commercial partnerships.
- Experience managing or overseeing major infrastructure or capital development projects.
- Strong financial management experience, including budgeting, capital investment, and funding strategies.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively within public-sector governance structures and political environments.
- Excellent communication, relationship management, and leadership skills.
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in business, economics, transportation, engineering, public administration, or a related field. An advanced degree (MBA, MPA, or equivalent) is preferred.



About Odgers

Odgers was founded in 1965. We offer integrated executive search and leadership advisory services through our 59 offices in 33 countries. During our 60-year history we have developed functional and sector expertise and built a global network of relationships. We are deeply rooted in our local markets, which we combine with global perspective and reach, enabling us to serve clients across six continents.

What we do matters; our work impacts peoples' lives and drives our clients' success. It is a privilege to help build the world's best leadership teams, a trusted role we never take for granted.

This ethos underpins our commitment to our clients and candidates and motivates our colleagues to strive for excellence in all we do.

HOW TO APPLY

In order to apply, please submit a comprehensive CV along with a covering letter which sets out your interest in the role and encapsulates the aspects of your experience relevant to the required criteria.

The preferred method of application is by email to: kelly.crittenden@odgers.com.



