

## Brazil

# Pecém expansion stymied by authorities



Pecém port

Neither Brazil's environmental agency, Ibama, nor its national heritage agency, Iphan, will agree to issue an environmental certificate to allow the second-phase expansion of the port of Pecém to go ahead. The Infrastructure Secretary of the state of Ceará, Adail Fontenele, said that this was due to worries over the possible disturbance of an archaeological site.

Both organisations have been assessing the request for the certificate since early this year, but have been unable to resolve conflicts during the past 10 months, when a number of complementary studies have also been undertaken.

In reality, the Phase 2 work is an expansion to the existing site and not a new project on a different site. Indeed, the terminal forms a key part of the Industrial Port Complex of Pecém (CIPP).

Construction was expected to commence in January and to be completed by June 2014, at a cost of US\$280m. As part of the work, a bridge will be built to access the existing breakwater. This will be 1,520 m long and 33 m wide. A 1,065 m length of the breakwater will then be paved so that it can be accessed by handling equipment, which will be deployed on a series of new piers that are to be built.

The breakwater itself will be extended by 90 m in length and 33 m in width. A 600 m stretch of quay wall will then be created, along with 69,000 sq m of yard space. ■

## Regional

# Portek points to its track record

**Singapore-based** Portek highlights the fact that it has been involved in delivering a broad spectrum of engineering services to terminals in Latin America for more than 10 years. At least 10 projects across the region have been completed over this period.

Portek's first foray into Latin America came in 1999 with the refurbishment of two quayside cranes in Panama, which was followed by a major project involving height modifications and drive changes for 10 rubber-tyred gantry (RTG) cranes in 2006. Since then, the company has completed four more projects in Panama, two in Mexico and one each in Columbia and Cuba.

Portek's engineering expertise was brought to bear in all these cases, and it has now modified, modernised, mobilised and repaired a total of more than 30 cranes in the region. According to Takao Omori, the company's CEO: "We continue to see strong demand to increase the capacity of port equipment in the Latin American region in order to accommodate larger vessels. Our objective is to bring our expertise in port management and equipment engineering, combined with new financial solutions, to benefit ports in the region, their local communities and all stakeholders." ■



Portek modified and relocated two quay cranes from Cristobal to Manzanillo in 2007