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The Port of Brighton



## Labidco thriving under the radar

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However, further south, the La Brea Industrial Development Company has been doing a similar job, quietly making significant contributions to T&T's most profitable sector.

When Labidco was incorporated in February 1995, initial plans would have seen it with a larger role in the sector.

"The original inception of the estate was supposed to be for the Farniland MissChem ammonia plant and the Atlantic LNG Plant, and initially it included about 400 acres of land and a six-metre construction dock. However, as you know, these projects have been relocated. Atlantic, in particular, to Point Fortin, and that would have provided the opportunity for a pivot in its strategy. So, rather than focusing on heavy industries, Labidco would have shifted its focus to small and medium-sized energy services and manufacturing industries," said Khadija St Louis, head of sustainability, strategy and growth at the company in a virtual interview on Wednesday.

Heading into its 30th year, next month, Labidco currently has 27 tenants occupying 41 lots on the estate, with lot sizes tailored to meet diverse operational needs. The tenants are engaged in a wide range of businesses, including oil and gas logistics, waste management, fabrication, general construction and warehousing.

"From the early 2000s, Labidco would have been the location for a number of national infrastructure projects, including the storage of pipes for NGC's cross-island pipeline, as well as the development of the state-of-the-art fabrication yard," said St Louis.

That fabrication yard is better known as the Trinidad Offshore Fabrication Company (Tofco), which has come to be known for the production of world-class platforms used by international energy companies.

"The establishment of this fabrication yard would have allowed for increased local content in the upstream oil and gas sector. And you know, the achievement of this facility has demonstrated the country's capacity to deliver world-class projects. From 2004 to now, the fabrication yard would have constructed more than ten offshore facilities, including the largest one to be built in Trinidad and Tobago to date, which is the bpTT Jumper platform in 2017," St Louis explained.


Labidco is also the landlord of the Port of Brighton, which like the industrial estate does not command the attention of the Port of Point Lisas, but similarly has contributed to the energy sector.

The port is a multi-user berth facility, equipped to handle a wide range of activities and industries.

Berth 3 at the port primarily serves as an offshore logistics base and transshipment hub, while Berth 2 supports the export of petrochemicals, project cargo and general cargo. Berth 1 is mainly used for crew transfers.

The port receives between 600 to 1,200 vessel calls annually and

news **SB3**



Khadija St Louis



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has facilitated the export of over 1 million metric tonnes of methanol produced at the Union Industrial Estate. Recently, the port served as a logistical base for the King's Wharf dredging project in San Fernando, facilitating the delivery of cargo materials, spares, fuel, and water, and providing waste management services.

Terrence Boodoosingh, the manager of operations at Labidco, noted the port had not only been a hub for the energy industry but the developing energy sectors of T&T's Caricom neighbours.

"We also look at our general-type cargo, bulk break, bulk transshipment, and, of course, the support of the energy sector with large modules and equipment, specialised equipment for the oil and gas exploration activities in Trinidad, and within the last couple of years, the emerging activities in Guyana, and soon to be that in Suriname, where we already set up contracts to support those activities as well. So that's the type of range of services that the port would facilitate on a yearly basis," said Boodoosingh.

The Port also recently became the first in the Caribbean to receive the EcoPorts PERS (Port Environmental Review System) certification and, as a result, it joined a global network of 66 EcoPorts-certified facilities. St Louis explained that this was all part of Labidco's vision to be the premier green and smart port in the region.

"Over the past couple of years, we've been implementing practices that reduce greenhouse gases and that minimise the ecological footprint. We are looking at implementing renewable energy solutions. So this certification actually aligns the Port of Brighton with international best practices, because this is certification that is awarded by eco SLC which is an independent organisation in Netherlands that is aligned with the European Union standards for port organisations," said St Louis.

She explained that the certification is the only port-specific environmental management structure in the world.

By being an eco-port, the Port of Brighton is showing its dedication to environmental preservation, and in doing so, it is supporting T&T's efforts to meet the emission targets that we would have set and agreed to, as per the Paris accord.

She added that this was just one of many sustainability initiatives being enacted by Labidco. The company has begun to implement plans based on a waste management report received from The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).

"Over the last two years, we'd have undertaken a lot of initiatives in sustainability, particularly the carbon sequestration project, where we would have planted 581 trees on the estate. And just to note those trees will absorb about 12,000 kilograms of carbon annually upon maturity. And we would have, as well, you know, installed the solar lights, 100 solar lights across the estate. And that would lead to a reduction of about 90,000 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub>," she said.

St Louis noted that Labidco recently welcomed Novo Farms, a company involved in innovation agro-processing, as a tenant on the estate.

"So the intention is to expand those operations in the areas of food security as well as the inclusion of third-party logistics into our business model. The aim, of course, is to attract more diverse businesses to drive profitability and productivity on the estate. On the sustainability side, as we mentioned, we will be implementing initiatives from the waste management plan, as well as expanding the use of renewable energy on the estate to establish a renewable energy system on the Port of Brighton to supply 36 per cent of our conventional energy load."

These plans are aimed towards the strategic placement of the estate as it enters its 30th year, as St Louis explained the certification has paved the way for improved environmental practices and accountability among the Port's users and tenants, ensuring compliance with international standards.

Despite making these moves, St Louis said the estate is enjoying hitting these achievements consistently.

"Labidco is fairly unknown to a lot of people because of one, the location and two, we tend to work in silence but the company is a very strong organisation," she said, stating that despite the upcoming anniversary, the team would maintain focus on improving the estate.

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By Peter Christopher Typically, when most people think about an industrial estate with close connections to the energy sector which also oversees a port in Trinidad and Tobago, Point Lisas and Pipedeco (the

Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation) come to mind. However, further south, the La Brea Industrial Development Company has been doing a similar job, quietly making significant contributions to T&T's most profitable sector. When Labidco was incorporated in February 1995, initial plans would have seen it with a larger role in the sector. "The original inception of the estate was supposed to be for the Farmland MissChem ammonia plant and the Atlantic LNG Plant, and initially it included about 400 acres of land and a six-metre construction dock. However, as you know, these projects have been relocated. Atlantic, in particular, to Point Fortin, and that would have provided the opportunity for a pivot in its strategy.

So, rather than focusing on heavy industries, Labidco would have shifted its focus to small and medium-sized energy services and manufacturing industries," said Khadija St Louis, head of sustainability, strategy and growth at the company in a virtual interview on Wednesday. Heading into its 30th year, next month, Labidco currently has 27 tenants occupying 41 lots on the estate, with lot sizes tailored to meet diverse operational needs. The tenants are engaged in a wide range of businesses, including oil and gas logistics, waste management, fabrication, general construction and warehousing. "From the early 2000s, Labidco would have been the location for a number of national infrastructure projects, including the storage of pipes for NGC's cross-island pipeline, as well as the development of the state-of-the-art fabrication yard," said St Louis. That fabrication yard is better known as the Trinidad Offshore Fabrication Company (Tofco), which has come to be known for the production of worldclass platforms used by international energy companies. "The establishment of this fabrication yard would have allowed for increased local content in the upstream oil and gas sector. And you know, the achievement of this facility has demonstrated the country's capacity to deliver world-class projects.

From 2004 to now, the fabrication yard would have constructed more than ten offshore facilities, including the largest one to be built in Trinidad and Tobago to date, which is the bpTT Juniper platform in 2017," St. Louis explained. Labidco is also the landlord of the Port of Brighton, which like the industrial estate does not command the attention of the Port of Point Lisas, but similarly has contributed to the energy sector. The port is a multi-user berth facility, equipped to handle a wide range of activities and industries. Berth 3 at the port primarily serves as an offshore logistics base and transshipment hub,

while Berth 2 supports the export of petrochemicals, project cargo and general cargo.

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Photos - Khadija St Louis/ The Port of Brighton/